

Obama Talks At Brooklyn School

Al Baker

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NEW YORK - President Barack Obama on Friday visited the Brooklyn high school that he praised in his State of the Union address this year to deliver a message about the urgency of education reform in the global economy.



President Barack Obama visits a classroom at P-TECH High School in Brooklyn borough of New York, Friday, Oct. 25, 2013. (AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)

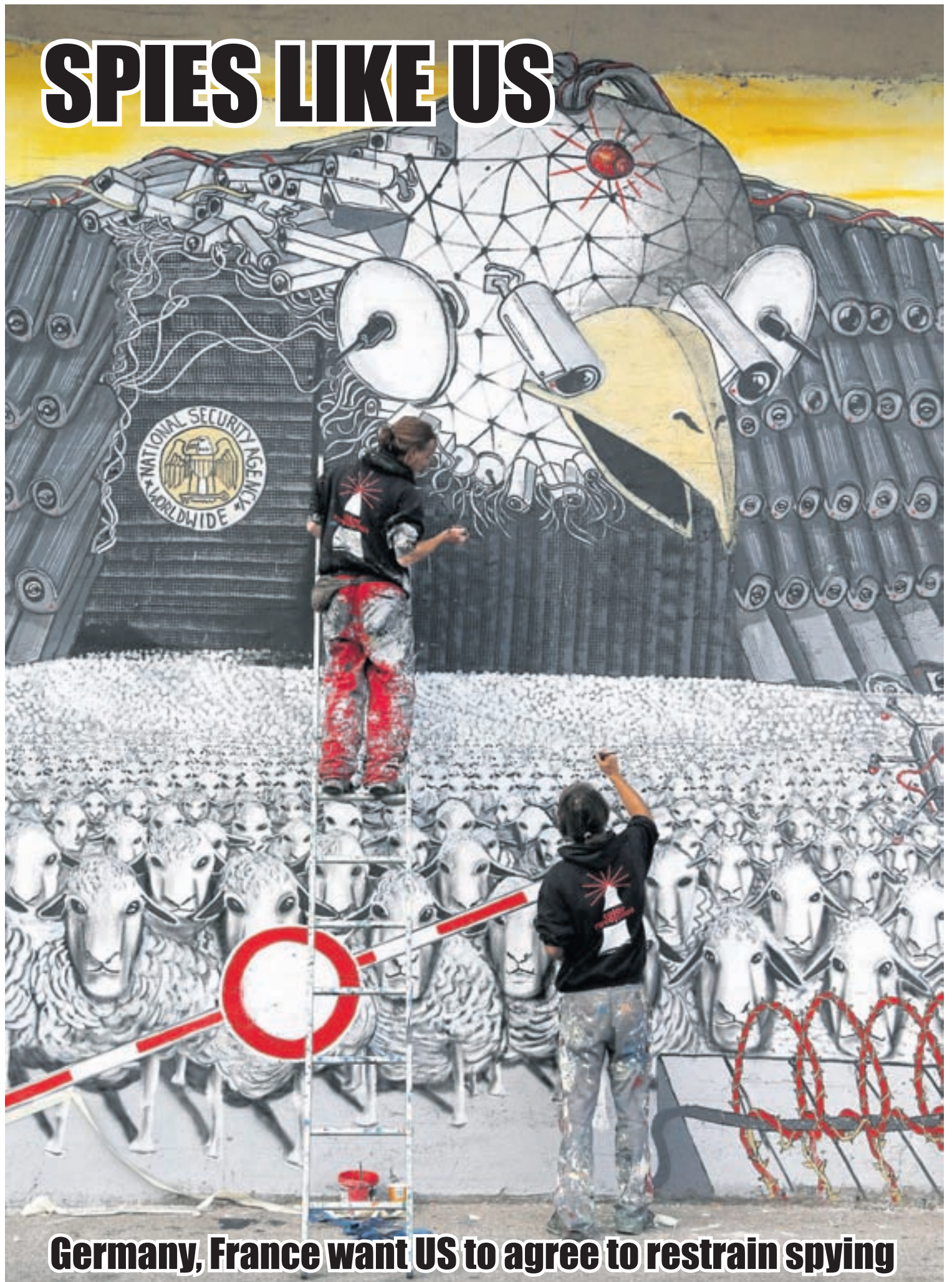
Obama was cheered by visibly energized students and a strong cadre of New York politicians when he took the podium at Pathways in Technology Early College High School.

"Hello, Brooklyn," he said, and started into his argument for creating more schools like the one he was visiting, casting them as essential in preparing the next generation of workers and entrepreneurs for competition in a global economy.

"This country should be doing everything in our power to give more kids the chance to go to schools just like this one," he said, calling the school a ticket to the middle class.

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SPIES LIKE US



Germany, France want US to agree to restrain spying

The American flag flies on top of the U.S. embassy in front of the Reichstag building that houses the German Parliament, Bundestag, in Berlin, Friday, Oct. 25, 2013. European Union leaders on Friday vowed to maintain a strong trans-Atlantic partnership despite their anger over allegations of widespread U.S. spying on its allies.

(AP Photo/Michael Sohn)

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Europe wants US spying curbed

JOHN-THOR DAHLBURG

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Indignant at reports of U.S. electronic espionage overseas, the leaders of Germany and France said Friday they will insist the Obama administration agree by year's end to limits that could put an end to alleged American eavesdropping on foreign leaders, businesses and innocent citizens.

German spy chiefs will travel to Washington shortly to talk with U.S. officials about the spying allegations that have so angered European leaders, including whether Chancellor Angela Merkel's own cellphone was monitored by the National Security Agency.

Merkel and French Presi-

dent Francois Hollande, at the final day of a European Union summit in Brussels, did not offer many specifics on what they want President Barack Obama and his intelligence chiefs to agree to.

A former French counter-intelligence agent, however, told The Associated Press the European allies will likely demand the Americans sign off on a "code of good conduct" for intelligence-gathering, and could use the espionage dispute as leverage against the United States in upcoming trade talks.

"I think France and Germany would want guidelines," said Claude Moniquet, who now directs the Brussels-based European Strategic and Intelligence Center. But he was dubious there would be much change in intelligence agencies' real-world behavior.

"Everyone swears on the Bible," Moniquet said. "And after that it's business as usual." This week alone, there have been headlines in the European press about the U.S. scooping up millions of French telephone records and perhaps listening in on Merkel's calls. A British newspaper said it obtained a confidential

sources that saw documents obtained by former NSA contractor Edward Snowden as saying they showed the agency had tracked phone calls, text messages and emails of millions of Spaniards, and spied on members of the Spanish government and other politicians.

Hollande, the French president, said his country and Germany decided to seek a "framework of cooperation with the United States so that the surveillance practices end. We fixed a deadline by the end of the year."

"They (the Americans) told us it was in the past and now there's a will to organize things differently," Hollande told a post-summit



Artists A.Signl, left, and B.Shanti of the artist group Captain Borderline paint their mural 'Surveillance of the fittest' at a wall in Cologne, Germany. European Union leaders on Friday vowed to maintain a strong trans-Atlantic partnership despite their anger over allegations of widespread U.S. spying on its allies.

(AP Photo/Frank Augstein)

memo indicating that the personal communications of up to 35 foreign leaders may have been subject to U.S. snooping in 2006.

On Friday, Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy said in Brussels that he had instructed his foreign minister to summon the U.S. ambassador in Spain to obtain information on news reports that Spain has been a target of U.S. spying, but insisted that his government was unaware of any cases. In a front-page story, Spain's leading newspaper El Pais cited unidentified

gathering of reporters. "Fine, let's do it."

France's leader seemed to object especially to any use of state intelligence assets to spy on innocent people or to promote a nation's trade goals or companies. "Protection of virtual life is not just the protection of leaders, who have cellphones just like everyone else. It's the protection of all citizens," Hollande said. "The protection of personal information should be guaranteed in Europe and demanded of the intelligence services." □

few hundred Caribbean security forces.

Reagan said the invasion was necessary to protect the lives of the more than 600 U.S. students at St. George's University School of Medicine, but the U.N. and countries including Britain and Canada accused the U.S. of violating international law. The reasons for the invasion were groundless, said Stephen Zunes, professor of politics and international studies at the University of San Francisco. "The coup gave us the excuse, and because the people of the island were so shell-shocked and outraged at what had been done, they welcomed in large part the U.S. invasion that they would have probably fought off had it taken place while Bishop was still in power," he said. Zunes noted the Reagan administration had been trying to undermine Bishop's regime, and said the invasion molded Grenada's political and economic future, turning it from socialism to more capitalist lines. Charles Modica, the medical university's chancellor, said he had polled students and found that some 90 percent did not want to be evacuated. "I had a very negative reaction," he said of the invasion. "Thanksgiving Day here is more meaningful than you'll ever know," he said. "You have to be here to recognize how important it is to people." In the first few hours of the invasion, dozens of military personnel jumped out of planes with instructions to evacuate students. "We weren't supposed to be on the island any more than a few hours," recalled retired U.S. Army Sgt. Maj. Scott Breasseale. "But we all know things don't go how they're supposed to once the first gun is fired or if intelligence changes." Dr. Robert Jordan, senior associate dean of basic sciences, had climbed to the roof of a house to watch the aircraft come in. □

Grenada thanks America, celebrates 1983 invasion

DANICA COTO

LINDA STRAKER

Associated Press

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada

(AP) — The planes began flying over Grenada around dawn, their low rumble awakening people in the tiny Caribbean island where a military government had seized power days before and executed the prime minister.

More than 7,000 U.S. Marines and Army paratroopers invaded the island to the cheers of Grenadians, who commemorate the 1983 action with a national holiday known as "Thanksgiving Day." About 100 people in all died during the operation dubbed "Urgent Fury."

Dozens of U.S. veterans, Grenadians and former U.S. students evacuated from Grenada's medical school during the operation gathered Friday to celebrate the 30th anniversary of one of the most popular foreign invasions in recent history and what was then the largest U.S. military operation since the Vietnam War.

"The U.S. stemmed the flow of blood, for which we are eternally grateful," said Grenada Prime Minister Keith Mitchell as he spoke at a Thanksgiving Day church service. "It is because of that we can enjoy democratic principles, which we sometimes take for granted."

Months before the operation, former President Ronald Reagan had complained about Soviet-Cuban militarization of the Caribbean and expressed worries that a new Cuban-backed 10,000-foot (3,000-meter) runway in Grenada would be used by Soviet military planes. Then on Oct. 19, 1983, Grenada's Marxist prime minister Maurice Bishop, three members of his Cabinet and four others were executed by a radical faction of his Cuba-backed party on orders of then-Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard.

Six days later, Reagan sent in U.S. troops, helped by a

few hundred Caribbean security forces.

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JPMorgan paying \$5.1B in over mortgage securities

MARCY GORDON

AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — JPMorgan Chase has agreed to pay \$5.1 billion to resolve claims that it misled U.S. mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac about risky home loans and mortgage securities it sold them before the housing market collapsed. The Federal Housing Finance Agency, which oversees Fannie and Fred-

die, announced the settlement Friday with JPMorgan, the largest U.S. bank. A broader deal with the Justice Department is still being negotiated.

Under the terms of the settlement, JPMorgan admits no wrongdoing.

The settlement is the start of what could be the largest penalty the government has extracted from a company for actions related to the financial crisis. The cri-

sis, triggered by vast sales of risky mortgage securities, plunged the economy into the deepest recession since the Great Depression. JPMorgan sold \$33 billion in mortgage securities to Fannie and Freddie between 2005 and 2007, according to the agency. That was the second-most sold to Fannie and Freddie ahead of the crisis, behind only Bank of America. The securities soured after the hous-

ing bubble burst in 2007, losing billions in value.

In a statement, JPMorgan called the agreement "an important step towards a broader resolution of the firm's" mortgage-related matters.

Edward DeMarco, the FHFA's acting director, said the settlement with JPMorgan "provides greater certainty in the marketplace." Last weekend, JPMorgan reached a tentative agree-

ment with the Justice Department to pay \$13 billion over bad loans and mortgage securities the bank sold before the crisis. The FHFA originally participated in those negotiations.

It's unclear when the broader agreement will be finalized.

The FHFA sued 18 financial institutions in September 2011 over their sales of mortgage securities to Fannie and Freddie. The total

price for the securities sold was \$196 billion.

The government rescued Fannie and Freddie during the financial crisis when both were on the verge of collapse. The companies received taxpayer aid totaling \$187 billion. They have since become profitable and repaid \$146 billion.

New York-based JPMorgan will pay about \$2.74 billion to Freddie and \$1.26 billion to Fannie for the securities it sold. JPMorgan is also paying \$1.1 billion for home loans it sold to Fannie and Freddie ahead of the crisis.

A number of big banks, including JPMorgan, Goldman Sachs and Citigroup, previously have been accused of abuses in sales of securities linked to mortgages in the years leading up to the crisis. Together, they have paid hundreds of millions in penalties to settle civil charges brought by the SEC, which accused them of deceiving investors about the quality of the bonds they sold.

No high-level Wall Street executives had been sent to jail over charges related to the financial crisis. And the banks in all the SEC cases were allowed to neither admit nor deny wrongdoing — a practice that brought criticism of the agency from judges and investor advocates. That has triggered public outrage. Some lawmakers and other critics demanded that the big bailed-out banks and senior executives be held accountable. JPMorgan has enjoyed a reputation for managing risk better than its Wall Street competitors. □



The JPMorgan Chase & Co. logo is displayed at their headquarters in New York. JPMorgan Chase has agreed to pay \$5.1 billion to resolve claims that it misled U.S. mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac about risky home loans and mortgage securities it sold them before the housing market collapsed.

(AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

'So help me God' optional in Air Force honor oath

DAN ELLIOTT

Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — Air Force Academy cadets are no longer required to say "so help me God" at the end of the Honor Oath, school officials said Friday.

The words were made optional after a complaint from the Military Religious Freedom Foundation, an advocacy group, that they violated the constitutional concept of religious freedom.

Academy Superintendent Lt. Gen. Michelle Johnson said the change was made to respect cadets' free-

dom of religion.

The oath states, "We will not lie, steal or cheat, nor tolerate among us anyone who does. Furthermore, I resolve to do my duty and to live honorably, so help me God."

Cadets are required to take the oath once a year, academy spokesman Maj. Brus Vidal said.

Mikey Weinstein, founder and president of the Military Religious Freedom Foundation, welcomed the change but questioned how it will be applied.

If the person leading the oath includes the words,

cadets who choose not to say them might feel vulnerable to criticism, he said.

"What does it mean, 'optional'?" Weinstein said. "The best thing is to eliminate it."

Vidal said the oath is led by the Cadet Wing honor chair, a student, and that person will also have the option to use or not use the words. Academy officials did not immediately return a follow-up call seeking comment on Weinstein's question.

The West Point equivalent oath does not include the words "so help me God,"

said Frank DeMaro, a school spokesman. It states, "A cadet will not lie, cheat or steal, or tolerate those who do."

Officials at the U.S. Naval Academy did not immediately return a call. "The Honor Concept" on the Naval Academy website includes similar proscriptions against lying, cheating and stealing but includes no religious reference.

The Air Force Academy outside Colorado Springs has about 4,000 cadets. When they graduate, they are commissioned as second lieutenants. □

Obama pushes school reform at Brooklyn high school

Continued from page

Obama's wish list included preschool availability for every 4-year-old in America; access for every student to a high-speed

Internet connection; lower college costs; redesigned high schools that teach the skills needed in a high-tech economy; and investment in teachers.

Obama zeroed in on Congress, imploring it to "do

something" on the educational front. One way to start, he said, "is by passing a budget that reflects the need to invest in young people."

He made a few sharper comments as well, in refer-

ence to the recent government shutdown, and added that, if people thought spending on education was expensive, ignorance was costlier.

"There is nothing more important than this," he said. He also suggested that the entire New York delegation come to Brooklyn to see P-Tech and meet its students. Marine One touched down in the shared outfield of a series of baseball fields in Prospect Park, kicking up a large cloud of dust and debris, including leaves, grass, sand and at least one gray T-shirt. Sen. Charles E. Schumer, D-N.Y., was there to greet the president, and the two rode together to the high school, known as P-TECH, in Crown Heights.

"We need to give every American student opportunities like this," Obama had said during his State of the Union address.

It was a reference to the way that P-Tech's students

are given high school and college curriculums in a six-year program tailored for a job in the technology industry. When the first of those students emerge, in 2017, they are expected to have associate degrees in applied science in computer information systems or electromechanical engineering, having followed a course of studies developed in consultation with IBM.

In 2012, five P-Tech-styled schools opened in Chicago, in collaboration with companies including Microsoft, Motorola, Verizon and Microsoft.

This year, two more schools modeled on P-Tech opened in New York City, with three more expected to open next year. Hours before Obama arrived, the signs of preparation were in evidence: streets scrubbed clean; stray cars towed; and metal barricades erected. □



President Barack Obama speaks about the importance of education in providing skills for American workers in a global economy, Friday, Oct. 25, 2013, during a visit at Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) in Brooklyn borough of New York.

(AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)



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US asks contractor to lead health website repairs

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration said Friday that dozens of problems had been found in the website at the center of a landmark health care overhaul, and a private company has been asked to lead the repairs. Officials said most of the issues will be fixed by the end of November.

It will take a lot of work, but "HealthCare.gov is fixable," management consultant Jeffrey Zients said, but he stopped short of saying the problems will go away completely. He told reporters his review found issues across the entire system.

HealthCare.gov was supposed to be the online portal for uninsured Americans to get coverage under the signature initiative of Barack Obama's presidency, which requires most Americans to have coverage by Jan. 1. The website was promoted as the equivalent of Amazon.com for health insurance,

but it became a huge bottleneck when it launched Oct. 1 and an embarrassment for the administration.

The U.S. has been the only

change that. The system is not the centralized, government-run setup seen in places like Britain and instead uses various ways to require or encourage

of efforts, and it has been under heavy attack by opposition Republicans from the start.

Now, with congressional elections coming next year,

Obama has said he's as frustrated as anyone and has promised a "tech surge" to fix the website.

The briefing from Zients came a day after contrac-



Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius takes part in a panel discussion to answer questions about the Affordable Care Act enrollment, Friday, Oct. 25, 2013, in San Antonio. The panel also included San Antonio Mayor Julian Castro and Bexar County Judge Nelson W. Wolff.

(AP Photo/Eric Gay)

Republicans hire Echols to head youth outreach

ASHLEY SOUTHALL

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Seven months after a report described the Republican Party's image as "old and detached from pop culture," the party has hired Elliott Echols, 23, to serve as its first national youth director.

Echols will spearhead the Republican National Committee's efforts to win over voters younger than 30, who broke overwhelmingly for President Barack Obama and Democrats in the 2008 and 2012 elections. This involves building "a grassroots infrastructure with the under-30 community" in partnership with campus-based groups and state parties, according to an announcement Thursday.

"One of my biggest goals is to bring young, energized people to the GOP," Echols said in a statement provided by the Republican National Committee.

"There are a lot of young

people who are eager to make a change, but they can't change anything if they're not a part of the process. My job is to get them more involved in the political process and to help them direct that eagerness to make a change into something tangible."

Echols is part of a string of recent hires amid the RNC's rehabilitation efforts following the 2012 elections.

Acknowledging the Obama campaign's superior grasp of technology and data, the party announced it had hired Andy Barkett, formerly of Facebook, to serve as its chief technology officer.

Among its recommendations, the "Growth and Opportunity" report released in March also called for the creation of a "youth liaison" to help create a youth-engagement model for the GOP similar to the Obama campaign's strategy in the past two elections. □

Americans to get private or, for the poor or elderly, government-provided insurance.

What's known as Obamacare is the closest the U.S. has ever come to universal health care after a century

Republicans are using the administration's handling of the troubled website launch to regain momentum after their effort to defund Obamacare led to a 16-day partial government shutdown.

tors told Congress that the government didn't fully test the system until the last couple of weeks before the launch and ordered last-minute changes that contributed to clogging the system. □

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Jurors wanted child abuse charges against Ramseys

P. SOLOMON BANDA

Associated Press

DENVER (AP)—A grand jury that reviewed evidence in the murder of 6-year-old beauty queen JonBenet Ramsey believed her parents were involved in the crime, according to documents released Friday, 14 years after the panel made its recommendation.

At the time, the grand jury recommended that both parents be charged with child abuse resulting in death and as accessories to murder.

The documents allege that both parents intended to delay or prevent the arrest of the person who killed their daughter. The documents do not however say who killed the girl.

Lurid details of the crime and striking videos of the child in adult makeup and costumes performing in pageants propelled the case into one of the highest profile mysteries in the United States in the mid-1990s. It also raised questions about child beauty

contests long before the popularity of reality shows such as "Toddlers & Tiaras" and "Here Comes Honey Boo Boo," which features moms and their child beauty pageant contestants.

The Daily Camera reported earlier this year that the grand jury had issued an indictment, but the documents for the first time revealed the charges made against the Ramseys.

The murder, which set off years of sensational news coverage remains one of America's most infamous unsolved crimes.

The district attorney at the time, Alex Hunter, who presented the evidence to the grand jury, declined to pursue charges saying, "we do not have sufficient evidence to warrant the filing of charges against anyone who has been investigated at this time."

Only pages that had been signed by the grand jury foreman and were considered official action of the jury were released. The

numbering of the charges implies that there were other charges the jurors considered but rejected.

Hunter did not return a phone message left Thursday by The Associated

ments alleged the crimes occurred between Dec. 25 and Dec. 26.

The Ramseys maintained their innocence.

Former prosecutor and law professor Karen Steinhaus-

a case beyond a reasonable doubt before pursuing charges.

Patsy Ramsey died of cancer in 2006, the same year a globe-hopping school teacher was arrested in Thailand after falsely claiming to have killed JonBenet. Former District Attorney Mary Lacy cleared the Ramseys in 2008 based on new DNA testing that suggested the killer was a stranger, not a family member.

Lacy did not return a phone call.

Over the years, some experts have suggested that investigators botched the case so thoroughly that it might never be solved.

Boulder Police Chief Mark Beckner said the case remains open but it's not an active investigation. He predicted the indictment's release wouldn't change anything.

"Given the publicity that's been out there, many people have formed their opinions one way or another," he said. □



On a day in which new court documents were released in the Dec. 26, 1996 death of six-year-old JonBenet Ramsey, TV correspondents Shaul Turner, of FOX 31 and Channel 2, right, and CNN's Ana Cabrera broadcast live in front of the Boulder County Justice Center in Boulder, Colo. on Friday Oct. 25, 2013. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)

Press in anticipation of the documents' release.

The grand jury met three years after the beauty queen's body was found bludgeoned and strangled in their home in Boulder on Dec. 26, 1996. The indict-

er said grand juries sometimes hear evidence that won't be admitted during trial that can form the basis of indictments. But she added that prosecutors must have a good faith belief that they could prove

US man guilty of killing 8 in mobile home

RUSS BYNUM

Associated Press

BRUNSWICK, Georgia (AP)

— A man was convicted Friday of killing his father and seven extended family members in a mobile home they all shared,

though prosecutors agreed not to seek the death penalty. Guy Heinze Jr., 26, was found guilty of eight counts of malice murder. But the judge in the case said shortly after the verdict was announced that prosecu-

tors agreed not to seek the death penalty after a juror was dismissed earlier Friday. Police charged Heinze with the killings six days after he reported finding the bodies to police. In a frantic call to police he cried:

"My whole family is dead!" Heinze's younger brother, Tyler Heinze, started crying and was escorted from the courtroom after the verdict was read, yelling expletives as he left. Prosecutors said Heinze had been smoking crack cocaine when he attacked his father and the others as they slept. Police found the victims scattered between five rooms of the cramped mobile home. Autopsies showed they suffered more than 220 wounds combined and each died from skull and brain injuries. No murder weapon was found, but police suspect they were beaten with a shotgun barrel. Heinze's defense team argued one person couldn't have slain so many people without anyone escaping. They worked to persuade the jury that police ignored alternate suspects and evidence as they rushed to build a case against Heinze based entirely on circumstantial evidence.

Prosecutor John B. Johnson told the jury in his closing argument Wednesday that a fight over drugs probably sparked the killings, which happened sometime between midnight and 5:30 a.m. Police believe Heinze killed Rusty Toler Sr. with the barrel of a shotgun in the closet of the bedroom they shared because Heinze wanted to take a bottle of painkillers prescribed to one of Toler's sons.

Afraid of being caught, Johnson said, Heinze then "goes through the house — angry, mad or whatever — and kills them all."

Heinze's lead defense attorney, Newell Hamilton Jr., told the jury it was hard to believe Heinze would kill eight people he loved over a bottle of "weak painkillers." Two defense experts testified there must have been more than one killer in the house. A former police detective estimated three to five attackers committed the killings. □

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US Financial Front:

Long-lasting American factory goods orders rise 3.7%

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A jump in demand for commercial airplanes boosted orders for long-lasting U.S. factory goods last month. But orders for most other goods fell as businesses cut spending, a possible sign of concern about the partial government shutdown that began Oct. 1.

The Commerce Department said Friday orders for durable goods rose 3.7 percent in September, above the 0.2 percent gain in August. But a 57.5 percent jump in aircraft orders accounted for nearly all the gain. Durable goods are meant to last at least three years.

Orders for core capital goods, which include industrial machinery and electrical equipment, fell 1.1 percent.

August's 1.5 percent gain was revised sharply lower to 0.4 percent. Economists pay particular attention to

core capital goods, which exclude aircraft and defense-related goods, because they are a sign of business confidence.

The figures echo other economic data that suggest companies were reluctant to expand or invest in new equipment in September, as budget battles in Washington intensified.

Hiring also slowed last month. Employers added just 148,000 jobs, down from 193,000 in August.

Paul Ashworth, an economist at Capital Economics, said the drop in core capital goods orders points to weaker growth in the October-December quarter. Shipments of core capital goods, which are used to calculate economic growth, also dipped last month, a sign that growth in the July-September quarter will also be weak. Ashworth cut his growth estimate for the third quarter to an annual rate of 1.8 percent from 2 percent. □



Appliances are on display at a Sears store in Berlin, Vt. Commerce Department reported a jump in demand on business orders for durable goods in September, on Friday Oct. 25, 2013.

(AP Photo/Toby Talbot)

US wholesale stockpiles rise by most since January 2013

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. wholesalers boosted their stockpiles in August by the most in seven months, a positive sign that many companies expected demand to rise.

Wholesale inventories rose 0.5 percent in August, the biggest gain since January, the Commerce Department said Friday.

Sales also rose, climbing 0.6 percent, the fourth gain in five months.

The restocking was driven partly by recoveries in housing and autos. Auto

inventories jumped 2.3 percent, the biggest gain in four months, and furniture stockpiles rose 1.1 percent for the second straight month. Stockpiles of pharmaceuticals, oil and gas, and clothing also increased. Rising inventories point to stronger growth because it means factories have produced more goods. And higher wholesale sales means businesses are unlikely to get caught with too many unsold goods on their shelves.

The report was delayed by the 16-day partial government shutdown. □

AURA CASINO

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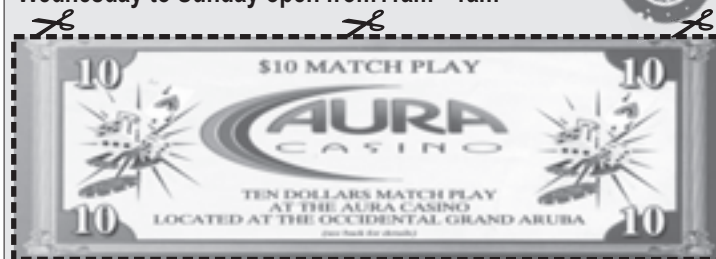
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Syria: al-Qaida linked group's leader killed

ZEINA KARAM
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Syrian state-run TV reported Friday the leader of a powerful al-Qaida-linked rebel group has been killed — a claim that if confirmed would be a huge blow to fighters trying to topple President Bashar Assad. At least one rebel commander denied the report.

Abu Mohammad al-Golani heads Jabhat al-Nusra, also known as Nusra Front, which has emerged as one of the most effective among rebel groups fighting Assad.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which closely monitors the fighting in Syria, said senior Nusra Front leaders contacted by activists in Latakia and the eastern Deir el-Zour province denied al-Golani had been killed.

Other Nusra Front sources said they could not confirm or deny the report "because contact with al-Golani was cut," the Observatory said in a statement. A rebel commander in a Damascus suburb contacted by The Associated Press said he believed al-Golani was "alive and well" based on his contacts with other fighters including those from Nusra Front. He declined to elaborate or be identified for security concerns.

The report comes as the fragmented rebels have suffered significant losses on the battlefield.

Syrian troops killed at least 40 opposition fighters, including Nusra Front members, earlier Friday in an ambush near Damascus, the government said.

Assad's forces backed by

Lebanese Hezbollah gunmen also seized control of a rebel ammunition supply route on a highway linking the capital to its eastern suburbs — part of a blistering government offensive to bolster its position amid an international push for peace talks.

State TV said al-Golani was killed in the coastal prov-

ince of Latakia. It did not say when or give other details. News of his death was not mentioned in the main headlines of the TV's late night news bulletin.

Al-Golani, who fought previously in Iraq, is a shadowy figure who is believed to have spent time recently in rebellious suburbs south of Damascus. Rebels have also gained footholds in mountainous regions of Latakia, which is largely loyal to Assad, and he may

have gone there to direct fighting. The Nusra Front is on a U.S. State Department list of terrorist organizations. The group has claimed responsibility for numerous suicide bombings against government targets.

Al-Golani gained prominence in April when he rejected an attempted

di's announcement of the merger was premature and that his group will continue to use Jabhat al-Nusra as its name.

The group is more popular in Syria than the ISIL, which is largely made up of foreign fighters and has been criticized for its brutality and for trying to impose a strict version of Islamic law



Weapons and ammunition are seen on the ground which were carried by Syrian rebels after they were killed by Syrian government forces, according to SANA, near the Otaiba area, near Damascus, Syria, Friday, Oct. 25, 2013. Syrian government troops on Friday ambushed rebels near the capital, Damascus, killing at least 40 opposition fighters, state media reported. The ambush was part of the military's offensive against rebel strongholds around President Bashar Assad's seat of power.

(AP Photo/SANA)

takeover of the group by Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the head of the Islamic State of Iraq, revealing a growing rift within al-Qaida's global network.

Al-Golani at the time distanced himself from claims that the two groups had merged into a group called the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant. Instead, he pledged allegiance to al-Qaida's leader Ayman al-Zawahiri. He said that al-Baghdadi's

in areas under its control. Al-Golani's death could strengthen ISIL at a time of growing infighting between al-Qaida extremists and the more moderate rebels from the mainstream Free Syrian Army. Assad's forces have been gaining ground in rebel-held areas around the capital, the seat of his power, and have made progress against outgunned and fragmented fighters in several areas. □

Student jailed in UK over murder, mosque attacks

C. VINOGRAD
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — A white supremacist Ukrainian student who murdered an elderly Muslim man and plotted a terrorist bombing campaign against mosques in central England has been sentenced to at least 40 years in prison. Pavlo Lapshyn pleaded guilty earlier this week to stabbing Mohammed Saleem to death as the 82-year-old walked home from a mosque in the city of Birmingham in April.

Lapshyn also admitted leaving home-made bombs outside three mosques near Birmingham in June and July — the first hidden in a child's lunchbox and the third timed to coincide with Friday prayers. Police said 25-year-old Lapshyn, who was in Britain on a part-time job related to his studies, was motivated by racism and a desire to stir up racial tension. He had started researching where to buy chemicals in Britain even before he arrived in the country from Ukraine. When British police searched his room, they found 98 video files and more than 400 photo files showing chemicals, firearms, bomb-making components and images of Lapshyn manufacturing and detonating explosive devices in what appears to be the Ukraine.

In sentencing Friday, Judge Nigel Sweeney told Lapshyn his "views, hatred and motivations have no place whatsoever in our multifaith and multicultural society." □

Tests prove Roma couple are mystery girl's parents

NICHOLAS PAPHITIS
VESELIN TOSHKOV
Associated Press
NIKOLAEVO, Bulgaria (AP)

— The mystery is solved — but the future of the young girl known only as Maria is still uncertain. DNA tests have confirmed that a Bulgarian Roma couple living in an impoverished village with their nine other children are the biological parents of the girl found in Greece with another Roma couple, authorities said Friday.

Genetic profiles of Sasha Ruseva, 35, and her 37-year-old husband, Atanas, matched that of Maria, Bulgarian Interior Ministry official Svetlozar Lazarov said Friday.

By late Friday, the couple had not returned to their home that was surrounded by local and international reporters after the news was announced, and police said their whereabouts were unknown to them.

Three of the couple's youngest children were taken to a shelter for temporary care, said Diana Kaneva, director of social services for the central Star Zagora region.

Ruseva had said she gave birth to a baby girl four years ago in Greece while working there as an olive picker but gave the child away because she was too poor to care for her. She since has had two more children after Maria. Maria has been in a charity's care since authorities raided a settlement of Roma, also known as Gypsies, in Greece last week and found she was not related to the Greek Roma couple she was living with. Her discovery triggered a global search for her parents, fears of possible child trafficking and inter-



Mother Sasha Ruseva holds two-year-old Penka, one of her ten children, whom she claims is albino with father Atanas, right, as they talk to journalists in the town of Nikolaevo, Bulgaria, Thursday Oct. 24, 2013. DNA tests have confirmed that a Bulgarian Roma couple living in the impoverished village with their nine other children are the biological parents of the girl found in Greece with another Roma couple, authorities said Friday.

(AP Photo/BGNES)

est from authorities dealing with missing children cases in Poland, France, the United States and elsewhere. Human rights groups also have raised concerns that the news coverage about Maria and the actions taken by authorities were fueling racist sentiment against the European Union's Gypsy minority, who number around 6 million.

The Bulgarian prosecutor's office and Greek authorities were "seeking clarification on whether the mother agreed to sell the child," the Interior Ministry said in a statement.

It wasn't clear if Maria had been told who her real parents are. The Greek charity Smile of the Child, which has been looking after her, would not comment on the case.

Social services director Kaneva, after visiting the Ruseva home, said the child would likely be

returned to Bulgaria for adoption.

"Maria will first be brought to a family crisis center, and after they (authorities) will seek for suitable foster family," she said.

The Rusevs and their other

children live in a dilapidated, mud-floored house outside the remote Bulgarian town of Nikolaevo, 280 kilometers (175 miles) east of the capital, Sofia.

The Roma quarter in the town houses some 2,000

people. Most are jobless, living in extreme poverty, trying to stay warm in shabby houses. Children played Friday in mud-covered streets as pigs, cats and hens ambled by.

Minka Ruseva, a 14-year-old who is one of the Rusev family's children, stood in front of their dilapidated two-room house. Minka said she saw pictures of Maria on TV and thought she was her sister.

"I like her very much. She looks very much like me, and I want her back home. We will take care of her, and I can help my mother," she said.

Stoyan Todorov, a neighbor of the Rusevs, complained of the hardships that he and his family face every day. He said Bulgarian authorities do not care about helping the Roma and come "only on the eve of elections, hoping to get our votes."

"Look how we are living in total misery," he continued. "Years ago, a man was murdered in our neighborhood and nobody paid attention. □"



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Ailing Argentine leader Fernandez faces congressional vote

ALMUDENA CALATRAVA
DEBORA REY

Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina

(AP) — Argentine President Cristina Fernandez faces an election Sunday that will open a fierce struggle to reduce her powers, and her aides say she's not even watching the news. Fernandez, 60, has been secluded in the presidential residence, recovering from skull surgery in the run-up to congressional elections that will decide how much control she'll have over Argentine politics during the final two years of her presidency. Polls suggest the ruling Front for Victory and its allies will lose ground in both houses, burying the idea that her government will win the super-majority needed to change the constitution and enable her to run for a third straight term.

Without the threat of a "re-election" to keep rivals in line, come Monday it would be anything goes in the multifaceted Peronist party that dominates Argentine politics, some analysts say. "It will initiate the internal

succession process within Peronism, and the first very visible expression of this will be lawmakers switching sides," Argentine political analyst Ignacio Fidanza, who directs lapoliticaonline.com, told The Associated Press. Fernandez underwent more follow-up tests Wednesday to make sure the blood on her brain discovered on Oct. 6 hasn't reappeared. While her doctors said she's recovering well, they also ordered that she avoid anything stressful until at least the second week of November. Fernandez had been the main attraction for slates of ruling party candidates, but now she won't even be part of the jostling for new positions that happens immediately after any election.

Interior and Transport Minister Florencio Randazzo said the president wasn't even told this week about a train crash that injured nearly 100 passengers and is causing new headaches for the government. "The president doesn't know about what happened," he said. "I don't think it would contribute to her re-

covery to learn about the episode."

Some polling suggests the ruling Front, known as the FPV, and its allies will barely hold onto their majority in the lower house and are

vides her with the total she needs.

In the current Senate, the FPV has 32 seats, and can count on allies for a total of 38 votes, barely more than the 37 needed for a

Kirchner restored power to the presidency and his wife has tightened her grip over the reins of the state after he died of a heart attack on Oct. 27, 2010.

Fernandez lost ground in



Artist Angeles Crovetto works on a mural of late Argentina's President Nestor Kirchner, top left in the painting, outside the National Congress in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Argentina holds mid-term congressional elections on Oct. 27, the same day that marks the third anniversary of the death of Kirchner, the husband of Argentina's current President Cristina Fernandez.

(AP Photo/Natacha Pisarenko)

more likely to lose the Senate.

She needs a majority in each house to reach a quorum and push through her agenda, and the ruling party has already lost some sure votes in the current Congress. Of 257 seats in the Chamber of Deputies, the FPV has 115 official seats, but can depend on only 109 or 110 votes from its own members, which together with allies pro-

majority in the 72-member chamber.

"It remains to be seen what will happen with the ruling party's allies, who could begin to move to the other side," said Mariel Fornoni, director of the Management & Fit consultancy. Sunday's vote represents the beginning of the end of a cycle that began in 2003, when Fernandez's late husband, Nestor Kirchner, won the presidency.

congressional elections during her first four-year term, but she won back enough allies to push through an economic emergency law granting her power to unilaterally make major financial decisions without further consulting Congress. Fearful of losing that power after Sunday's vote, the government recently extended the "emergency" until the end of 2015. □

Venezuela government creates happiness agency

JORGE RUEDA

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— Americans may insist on the right to pursue happiness, but Venezuela now has a formal government agency in charge of enforcing it.

President Nicolas Maduro says the new Vice Ministry of Supreme Social Happiness will coordinate all the "mission" programs created by the late President Hugo Chavez to alleviate poverty.

Wags had a field day Friday, waxing sarcastic on Twitter about how happy they felt less than 24 hours after the announcement.

Oil-rich Venezuela is chronically short of basic goods

and medical supplies. Annual inflation is running officially at near 50 percent and the U.S. dollar now fetches more than seven times the official rate on the black market.

In downtown Caracas, fruit vendor Victor Rey said he's now waiting for Maduro to create a vice ministry of beer.

"That would make me, and all the drunks, happy," he said.

A TV journalist whose show was recently forced off the air after he refused to censor political opponents of the ruling socialists, Leopoldo Castillo, called Maduro's announcement an international embarrassment. Housewife Lilita Al-

fonzo, 31, said that instead of a Supreme Happiness agency she'd prefer being able to get milk and toilet paper, which disappear off store shelves minutes after arriving at stores.

"It's a Calvary getting the ingredients for any meal," she said.

Maduro blames the shortages on speculation and hoarding, but merchants say they would go broke if they adhered to government price controls.

Chavez spent billions on social programs, from benefits for single mothers to handouts of apartments and major appliances.

Maduro was elected April 14 as Chavez's chosen successor. □

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Muslim Brotherhood, Morsi supporters rally in Egypt

TONY G. GABRIEL

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Thousands of supporters of Egypt's ousted president and his Muslim Brotherhood group marched Friday in Cairo, part of a plan to pressure the military-backed government ahead of a court hearing for the toppled head of state.

Supporters of Mohammed Morsi, Egypt's first elected president, demonstrated in Cairo's southern district of Maadi. Some held pictures of their fallen members. They marched on the Constitutional Court there, calling for Morsi to be reinstated and urging military leader Gen. Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi to step aside.

Other scattered protests occurred across Egypt. An

umbrella group of Islamist parties, including the Brotherhood, said Friday's rallies were the beginning of a weeklong protest campaign until Nov. 4 when Morsi is scheduled to appear in court. The campaign has been dubbed the week of "steadfastness."

Morsi faces criminal charges accusing him of inciting the murder of rallying opponents while he was in office. Authorities have not said whether Morsi will appear at the hearing. If he does, it will be his first public appearance since the July 3 coup.

Morsi was overthrown along with his Brotherhood-led government after millions protested against his leadership, claiming the Is-

lamist president was incompetent and overstepped his authority during a year in power.

Since then, Brotherhood

security crackdown in which hundreds have been killed and more than 2,000 of group's members have been jailed. Morsi has been

his group.

Authorities appear to have expanded the scope of the crackdown. A police officer was suspended from his duties in the Nile province of Gharbiya, north of Cairo, because he was suspected of being a Brotherhood member, security officials said Friday. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to journalists.

The decision could signal that the military-backed leadership will purge Brotherhood members from the security forces, a move that could deepen tensions. Morsi supporters and those backing the military already accuse each other using violence to advance their causes. □



Supporters of Egypt's ousted President Mohammed Morsi hold a demonstration in Cairo, Egypt.

(AP Photo)

supporters have staged near-daily rallies around the country, protesting se-

held incommunicado since his ousting and a court has ordered an outright ban on

Dutch prosecutors: abandoned baby boy has sister

MIKE CORDER

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — A baby boy abandoned in a southern Dutch city is still too young to know it, but he has a sister who suffered the same fate across the border in Germany less than two years earlier.

Prosecutors in the Netherlands and Germany said Friday that DNA tests have established that the boy found lying in grass wrapped in a white blanket in Roermond on June 18 has the same mother as a girl abandoned in October 2011 in Huerth, near the German city of Cologne.

The first baby, who appeared to have parents of

European origin, was only about two days old when she was thrust into the arms of a man recycling garbage, said Cologne prosecutors' office spokesman Daniel Vollmert.

At the side of a road, a man was unloading recycling into containers when another man approached him and said in broken German, "Here, I found this," Vollmert said. He handed him the little baby girl, swaddled in a towel and blanket and then fled. Police were called, but they could never identify the man who abandoned the baby.

Both children are healthy and being cared for by foster families in the Neth-

erlands and Germany, said Eugene Baak, a spokesman for the Dutch prosecutors who hope the new information will lead to tips from the public that could help authorities trace the children's biological par-

ents.

It is not yet clear whether the siblings will, at some stage, be reunited. "The possibility is being investigated," Baak said.

DNA checks showed that the children have the same

mother.

It is not yet clear if they share the same father. The baby boy was discovered by in Roermond, 175 kilometers (110 miles) south of Amsterdam, on June 18. □



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Nigerian military kills scores of insurgents

ADAMU ADAMU

HARUNA UMAR

Associated Press

MAIDUGURI, Nigeria (AP)

— Suspected Islamic militants attacked several police targets in northeast Nigeria's Yobe state Friday, razing at least three offices and provoking gunbattles that killed scores of extremists and security forces, a police officer said.

The military declared an indefinite 24-hour curfew across Yobe state, leaving terrified residents locked into their homes and about 10,000 residents running short of water.

Friday's attack came as the military in the neighboring state of Borno declared a major success with an aerial bombardment and ground assault on two "terrorist camps" that they said killed 74 insurgents and wounded several others.

The Borno assaults hit forested areas near the town of Benisheik, where suspected Islamic militants have been blamed for attacks that have killed nearly 150 civilians in the past month. Many had their throats slit — a symbolic act as that is the way animals are slaughtered by Muslims.

Thursday's bombardment was heralded by screaming jets and helicopters battering the air over the headquarters of the joint task force in Maiduguri, the Borno capital.

Spokesman Lt. Col. Muhammed Dole said two soldiers were wounded in the attacks and that several

wounded militants fled.

The military said it killed dozens of insurgents in a similar attack in Borno state last week. In Damaturu on Friday, a police sergeant told The Associated Press that security forces killed 35 extremists and arrested

It started with gunmen in vehicles including an armored personnel carrier attacking the residence of the police anti-terrorist squad, according to resident Musa Ibrahim, who said explosions and gunfire went on for hours.

locked doors as the shooting and explosions continued.

"Law-abiding citizens are enjoined to remain calm as the battalion steps up its operation to rid the state of insurgents," said the announcement from Capt. Eli



An unidentified man drives a rickshaw in northern Nigeria. Suspected Islamic militants attacked several police targets in northeast Nigeria's Yobe state Friday, razing at least three offices and provoking gunbattles that killed scores of extremists and security forces, a police officer said.

(AP Photo/Sunday Alamba)

25 for the loss of 17 soldiers and 10 police officers in the attack on the Yobe state capital, Damaturu, that began overnight and continued Friday morning. He and other police officers there spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to give information to reporters.

Another police officer said the militants went on to attack the mobile police base, the police Criminal Investigation Department office and the police commander's office, which all were set ablaze by explosions and razed.

A curfew was declared Friday morning, though most residents remained behind

Lazarus, that was broadcast on radio stations.

At least one person did not hear it. Civil servant Hassan Mohammed was driving to his office when he was shot and wounded by an army patrol that accused him of breaking the curfew in the Yobe state capital, Damaturu, according to a police constable. □

Greenland opens way for mining boom

JAN M. OLSEN

Associated Press

COPENHAGEN, Denmark

(AP) — Greenland's parliament has agreed to remove a 25-year-old ban on uranium mining, paving the way for an industrial boom that the Arctic island hopes will help it gain independence from former colonial master Denmark.

Greenland, a semi-autonomous part of Denmark, wants to step up its mining of rare earths, valuable elements used in the production of smartphones, weapons systems, and other modern technologies. But uranium is often found mixed into rare earths, so the ban was blocking key mining activity. Experts estimate that a mine in southern Greenland could contain the largest rare-earth metals deposit outside China, which currently accounts for more than 90 percent of global production. An Australian company has estimated it could extract up to 40,000 tons of rare earth metals per year. In a 15-14 vote with two absentees, the parliament backed late Thursday the center-left governing coalition's desire to remove the ban. The government also gave a British company a license to extract iron. The company, London Mining, is now seeking investments to develop a mine northeast of Nuuk, the capital, and is expected to bring in foreign workers, possibly from China.

Many Greenlanders want to use the island's mineral resources as a way to reduce dependency on a subsidy from Denmark which now accounts for about two-thirds of the island's economy. Denmark is open to allowing Greenland greater independence, but there is currently no way the island can support its costs without the subsidy.

Denmark's foreign trade minister, Nick Haekkerup, sought to ease concerns that Greenland might sell the uranium it finds in the rare earths mining. □

Former DJ in court in Virgin Islands on sex charge

JASON BRONIS

Associated Press

ST. CROIX, U.S. Virgin Islands (AP)

— A retired New York radio personality accused of trying to set up a sexual encounter with a 7-year-old girl said he won't fight extradition to New Jersey during a court appearance Friday in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

David Herman did not enter a plea on a charge of attempting to transport a minor with intent to engage in sexual acts. He faces up

to life in prison.

Herman's lawyer and two supporters declined comment after the hearing. Magistrate Judge George Cannon ordered that Herman be returned to New Jersey,

but it is unclear when he would be transferred. Assistant Federal Public Defender Gabriel Villegas said Herman had health and medical issues that should be treated in the U.S. mainland, but he did not elaborate.

Herman, a pioneering rock and roll disc jockey at former FM radio station WNEW, lives in Airmont, New York, and St. Croix.

Authorities say he exchanged online messages with an undercover agent posing as a 36-year-old woman with a young daughter. Prosecutors said Herman tried, in multiple phone and online conversations, to arrange illegal sexual encounters with the child in New York and Bergen County, until indicat-

ing he wanted to fly the pair to St. Croix so he could have sex with the girl there. Herman bought airline tickets Sept. 30 for the woman and her child to fly from LaGuardia airport to St. Croix, according to prosecutors. He arrived at the airport Thursday to pick up the woman and child, according to the U.S. attorney's office, but was instead met by agents with U.S. Homeland Security and Immigration and Customs Enforcement, who arrested him. □



International School of Aruba celebrates United Nations Day!

WAYACA - The International School of Aruba celebrated United Nations Day on Friday, with students from 30 different countries carrying flags in the Parade of Nations. Each country said "Hello" and "Peace" as they crossed the stage in their home language. A Fashion Show of Nations was next, followed by a Feast of Nations with booths of food from 19 different countries.



The feast was created by parents and organized by the Parent Teacher Association (PTA).

Also, as a public service to the community, for all students on Aruba seeking to go to University, ISA wishes to announce they will be hosting an open College Information Night on Wednesday, October 30, 6pm – 7pm. There will be a presentation that includes: Dutch Admissions Process presented by Colegio, Flagler College representative and US Admissions process, and NCAA Sports Eligibility.

ISA welcomes visitors to the campus. If you would like a tour, or would like to be informed of upcoming events, please call at 583-



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Bugaloe Welcomes Captain Tom and his Wife Brenda Nicholas!



PALM BEACH - Bugaloe Beach Bar & Grill welcomes back Captain Tom and his wife Brenda Nicholas from outside Bean Town USA, Acushnet, MA. They discovered Bugaloe about 4 years ago, with a literal sigh of 'Thank God'. What a great way to start some Bugaloe Memories! Tom and Brenda love coming to Aruba for the beautiful weather, and spend their days snorkeling and chilling at Bugaloe. During their visits they reside in a villa, in this case the Sunset Beach Villas. A perfect location for a home away from home. Tom's favorite menu item are the Dutch fried treats of 'Bitterballen' and for Brenda the shrimps. For both of them accompanied with a nice TicTac (orange vodka, with redbull) drink, and the perfect night is complete. When we asked the couple what they like best of Bugaloe they said: 'The staff is the best in the world'. Especially thinking back of their funniest memory with Myrthe and Erik, when they drove the couple home, right into the hotel! Other fun memories are the times when Tom and Brenda go out with the staff, ending the night with barstools on their heads! The Bugaloe crew likes to thank Tom and Brenda for being such loyal guests, and hope to welcome them back again soon! ☐

Scaring up good times this weekend!

Halloween Family Fun At Palm Beach Plaza Mall!



PALM BEACH - Palm Beach Plaza Mall has a spooktacular lineup of events planned for the whole weekend for little goblins to enjoy. On Saturday, October 26, find our BOO-Box to win prizes from 5pm - 9pm, and there will be a spooky Jump House on the 3rd floor from 4pm - 9pm! On Sunday, October 27,

Trick or Treat! The 1st 500 kids will receive free Halloween bags, from 5pm - 8pm! Also, there will be an exciting show for kids from 5pm - 5pm, and last but not least, there is the famous Best Costume Competition, taking place from 7pm - 7:30pm! Be there or beware: BOO! ☐



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ORANJESTAD - Ciao Brazil! Share the emotions and don't miss any goals of the 64 games that will make up the 2014 World Cup, thanks to the partnership between Aruba Bank and Tele Aruba, jointly bringing all of the games, all the way to your own living room. This will be the 20th world championship of soccer organized by FIFA, and will take place from June 12 to July 13 in Brazil. This is the second time that Brazil hosts the World Cup of soccer. A total of 32 countries will participate in the international soccer tournament, which will take place in 12 different cities across Brazil.

This will be the first international championship tournament to be held in Latin America since the last one took place in Argentina in 1978.

Aruba Bank is the main sponsor, making it possible for Tele Aruba to air all of

the World Cup games, accompanied by Papiamentu commentary from local soccer narrators.

During a special event at TeleAruba, members of Aruba Banks management team, Rocila Acosta, Gina Habibe and Nataly Simons, together with members of management of TeleAruba, Victor (Toko) Winklaar, Rona Tromp and Giovanny Kock, signed the contract that will make it possible for the entire island of Aruba and the various island communities to receive the signal from our national TV station, thereby enjoying the 2014 World Cup.

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mitment to our community and part of our social responsibility is the support of sports. We at Aruba Bank are very happy to be able to form a partnership with TeleAruba and facilitate the airing of the FIFA 2014 World Cup games," said Rocila Acosta, member of the management team at Aruba Bank.

Victor (Toko) Winklaar, Di-

rector of TeleAruba, remarked: "For us at TeleAruba, it is definitely a pleasure to have Aruba Bank as a partner in the upcoming FIFA 2014 World Cup.

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NBA looks heavy at the top _ and that's about it

TIM REYNOLDS
AP Basketball Writer

The NBA this season should be especially crowded at the top, with a lot of teams in championship contention. There will be an even bigger crowd at the bottom of the league.

Even in an era where salary caps and luxury taxes are helping small-market teams, the divide between the haves and the have-nots in the NBA seems particularly copious this season. Few would argue that Miami, Chicago, Brooklyn, Indiana, San Antonio, Oklahoma City, Houston, Memphis and the Los Angeles Clippers are all legitimate contenders to finish this season as champions next June. And cases could also be made that just about every other club might have a chance to draft expected No. 1 pick Andrew Wiggins a few days later.

"It's the first time I've ever been in the league, 14 years, where if you fast-forwarded to July and said one of nine teams won the

championship, I wouldn't be surprised," Memphis guard Mike Miller said. "That doesn't happen very often. That's what makes the league exciting this year. Obviously, the favorite is Miami. But if you did fast forward it, barring injuries or anything like that, there's eight or nine teams that have a chance."

As for everyone else, the future might not necessarily be now. Philadelphia, Orlando, Boston, Charlotte, Phoenix, Utah and Sacramento look to be in rebuilding modes, mostly around young cores with plenty of potential. The New York Knicks look like a playoff team, though perhaps a step below the clear top four in the Eastern Conference. So that would leave Milwaukee, Atlanta, Cleveland, Detroit, Toronto and Washington as the six most logical candidates for the final three East playoff spots.

"We're going to win championships here," Toronto Raptors CEO Tim Leiweke



Miami Heat shooting guard Dwyane Wade (3) drives to the basket in the second half of a preseason NBA basketball game against the New Orleans Pelicans in New Orleans, Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2013. The Heat defeated the Pelicans 108-95.

Associated Press

said. Maybe. But when? That's the question everybody's dealing with in this loaded-at-the-top NBA. But it takes the right combination of spending and savvy to get it done.

"To me we have a league where management is what is going to win and going to do well in business," NBA Commissioner David Stern said. "And I'm very proud of that situation." The Western Conference is ridiculously top-heavy. There's the five teams just about everyone is talking about, plus Golden State — meaning at minimum, two teams that would seem good enough to win the conference won't even have home-court advantage in the first round of the playoffs.

That leaves six teams — the Los Angeles Lakers, Dallas, New Orleans, Denver, Minnesota and Portland — likely to vie for the final two West playoff slots.

Continued on Page 20



Tampa Bay Buccaneers running back Mike James (25) catches a pass for a first down as he is tackled by Carolina Panthers middle linebacker Luke Kuechly (59) during the first half of an NFL football game in Tampa, Fla., Thursday, Oct. 24, 2013.

Associated Press

FRED GOODALL
AP Sports Writer
TAMPA, Florida (AP) — Quarterback Cam Newton

pranced into the end zone, placed his hands over his chest and did his familiar Superman pose.

Newton throws for 2 TDs, Panthers beat Bucs 31-13

NFL RoundupHe's says the surging Carolina Panthers are hardly a one-man show, though.

An efficient Newton threw two touchdown passes and ran for another score to pace a 31-13 victory over the winless Tampa Bay Buccaneers in the NFL on Thursday.

The Panthers won for the fourth time in five games following an 0-2 start and climbed over .500 for the first time in five years. They've won three straight, with Newton throwing for

667 yards, six touchdowns and no interceptions.

He also has two rushing touchdowns in the past three weeks.

"When you've got an offensive line that's protecting the way they protect, when you've got a running back that's running, you've got receivers making plays after the catch, it's really not hard," Newton said.

"It's just up to me to make the right decision and get the ball into the right people's hands."

The Buccaneers, one of

two NFL teams yet to win, have dropped the first seven games in a season for the seventh time in franchise history.

They've lost 12 of 13 dating to last year, and some fans showed up at Raymond James Stadium carrying signs and wearing paper bags over their heads urging second-year coach Greg Schiano to be fired.

Schiano said calls for his dismissal haven't become a distraction for him or his players. □

World Series scene shifts, Cards right at home



The St. Louis Cardinals celebrate after Game 2 of baseball's World Series against the Boston Red Sox Thursday, Oct. 24, 2013, in Boston. The Cardinals won 4-2 to tie the series at 1-1.

Associated Press

BEN WALKER

AP Baseball Writer

ST. LOUIS (AP) — From the Green Monster to the Gateway Arch. From the Charles River to the mighty Mississippi. From clam chowder to toasted ravioli. The World Series scene is shifting, and St. Louis ace Adam Wainwright couldn't be happier.

"We love Cardinal country," he said Friday.

For good reason, too. After Boston split the first two games at Fenway Park, now Dustin Pedroia, Jacoby Ellsbury and the rest of the Red Sox will get to see what makes this place so special.

Especially in October.

"Well, we love playing here at Busch Stadium. Like I said, it's a sea of red," pitcher Joe Kelly said.

The free-spirited Kelly was set to start Game 3 on Saturday night against Jake Peavy.

"This is what I've lived for my whole life — my whole baseball career, I should

say," Peavy said. "I'm as prepared as I'll ever be — physically, mentally."

Also warmed up: A team of eight Clydesdales, ready to pull a red beer wagon around the warning track before the first pitch. It's also a tradition for fans to gather early at the Musial statue — there are two honoring Stan the Man, actually.

Red Sox closer Koji Uehara took a moment to soak it all in. As he walked onto the field for a workout, the first-time visitor looked at the gleaming Arch hovering high beyond the center-field fence.

The Cardinals rely on a lot more than pomp when they play in their own park. They led the NL in scoring while going 54-27 at Busch, and then let pitching take over in the postseason. St. Louis is 5-1 at home in the playoffs — in those five wins, opponents scored a total of five runs.

Boston has hit just .188 so far in the Series, with David

Ortiz providing the biggest bop. He's homered in both games and is 4 for 6 overall with five RBIs.

With no designated hitter in the National League park, Ortiz will switch to first base. Manager John Farrell wouldn't say whether Ortiz would start there for every game in St. Louis, but it's a good guess regular first baseman Mike Napoli will be on the bench for a while.

Farrell also said lefty-swinging Daniel Nava would start in left field instead of Jonny Gomes, who is 0 for 7 so far. "Obviously David's bat, at all costs, needs to be in the lineup," Peavy said. "David is a game-changer. He's as clutch as anybody I can remember playing with or

against."

"It just seems like he has a flair for the dramatic. When the situation is the biggest, he's at his best," he said.

Ortiz hit a two-run homer off rookie sensation Michael Wacha in Game 2 that put Boston ahead 2-1 in the sixth inning, but St. Louis rallied in the seventh for a 4-2 win.

The Red Sox will spend this weekend at the stadium a few blocks from the Mississippi River.

"I believe our ballpark is very fair. I don't think there's one thing that would make our team any more effective in this park than any other," Cardinals manager Mike Matheny said. "It's not like there's the oddities, like a Green Monster or deep

corners and gaps."

"But you can't help but buy into the atmosphere, especially when you're at home and every single thing you do gets such a positive response," he said.

Kelly is glad to be home, all the way around.

"You get to sleep in your own bed. You get to do what you normally do on a regular basis," he said. "If you get coffee in the morning, you go to your coffee shop."

It's just a comfort level to know that it's your home away from your offseason home."

For the Red Sox, this is their first visit to St. Louis since Ortiz hit a home run on June 8, 2005, in a win at the previous Busch Stadium. □

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The NBA Divide

Continued from Page 18

And while injured Lakers star Kobe Bryant is scoffing at notions suggesting his team can't contend, others in the purple and gold don't seem to mind being off the radar screens right now.

"At this point, it's really important for us to embrace these low expectations, try to find a real chemistry and build ourselves into a team that has some confidence," Lakers guard Steve Nash said.

"We have so many new players.

We have so many question marks."

Wiggins, the University of Kansas freshman, is expected to be the No. 1 pick in next year's draft if he leaves school, and there have been some comparisons made already between his game and the one LeBron James had at around the same age.



Miami Heat's LeBron James, center, stands with Chris Bosh, left, and Dwyane Wade, right, during a timeout in the first half of an NBA preseason basketball game against the San Antonio Spurs, Saturday, Oct. 19, 2013, in Miami. James sat out the game.

Associated Press

That being said, it might make the second half of the season particularly interesting.

Some teams will know by then that not only are they out of title contention, but out of the playoff race altogether. And that will inevitably lead to questions whether certain franchises might be better served trying to play for the best possible draft pick.

Make no mistake, that will be a talking point.

Miami guard Dwyane Wade thinks it's a bad one. His first title came in 2006. Two years later, the Heat were 15-67 and widely accused of playing for the chance to draft Derrick Rose. They got Michael Beasley instead.

"We had to hear that in '08, when all of us got hurt and we won 15 games and everyone said we were tanking," said Wade, adding the accusation was insulting. "We weren't tanking. We were hurt."

So, like Miller said, fast-forward to June.

Maybe it's time to just play for it being the Heat or the Bulls or the Pacers or the Nets versus the Spurs or the Thunder or the Rockets or the Grizzlies for the NBA title.

Since 2000, no seed lower than No. 4 in their respective conference playoffs has played for the title, anyway.

And it doesn't look like a season where too many teams look capable of crashing the party.

"There's always a handful of teams that are building and there's always a handful of teams that are built to win this year," Heat forward Shane Battier said. "The murky area is that middle ground, with those teams that don't know. I think because of the cap, free agency, the summer of 2014, that has something to do with the cliff. Teams are very aware. That's just the reality." □

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NFL Preview

Jason Campbell's chore: Beat the unbeaten

BARRY WILNER

AP Pro Football Writer

Now Jason Campbell, who hasn't started an NFL game in almost a year, gets his chance with the Cleveland Browns. His first mission: Trying to beat the undefeated Chiefs. In Kansas City.

Hardly an enviable task for the 2005 first-round draft pick of the Washington Redskins who has bounced around the NFL. The Browns are his fourth team, and he is their third starter this season, after the ineffective Brandon Weeden and injured Brian Hoyer.

"We understand we're a growing football team and our goal and mission every week is to go out and win games," Campbell said. "The one thing we can't forget is just to get back to having fun."

The Chiefs haven't made it fun for any opponents. They're the only remaining perfect team because their defense is opportunistic and sack-crazy.

Cleveland's defense is pretty staunch as well, and has sacks from 13 players, tied for the most in the league.

But the Chiefs have two of the NFL's leading sackmasters in linebackers Justin Houston (10) and Tamba Hali (nine).

"You go in every week respecting every oppo-



Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Alex Smith (11) celebrates his touchdown with wide receiver Dwayne Bowe (82) during the first half of an NFL football game against the Houston Texans at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City, Mo., Sunday, Oct. 20, 2013.

Associated Press

nent," linebacker Derrick Johnson said, "but at the same time, we don't really care who plays as long as we execute our defensive scheme."

The last time Campbell started, he led the Chicago Bears in a 32-7 loss to the San Francisco 49ers last season. That doesn't bode well for Cleveland.

Redskins coach Mike Shanahan returns to Denver, where he led the Broncos to 146 wins and two Super Bowl titles in his 14 seasons in charge. The Broncos are planning a short video

tribute for Shanahan, who said he expects a warm reception: "I don't think I did anything wrong to get booed. I didn't leave. They fired me."

Denver comes off its first defeat in Peyton Manning's emotional return to Indianapolis, and he missed some practice time this week with a sore ankle. Neither defense has done much this season, so a shootout seems likely.

Two more pretty good offenses face each other when Dallas visits Detroit, but the Cowboys showed

plenty of defense in shutting down Philadelphia last week. Whether that lasts could decide the winner at Ford Field.

Lions quarterback Matthew Stafford is a Dallas guy and would like nothing more than a second straight win over his hometown team. Stafford says his family members have become Lions fans, but not all of his friends have done so.

"They want me to have a really good game and lose it in the end," he said.

The clashing New York Jets

and Cincinnati Bengals have used special teams for some special wins. Three of New York's victories have come off the foot of Nick Folk, who's hit all 16 field goal attempts thus far. The last two Bengals wins were clinched by former Jets kicker Mike Nugent, including a 54-yarder to win at Detroit last Sunday.

The Jets have won four in a row and nine of the past 10 against Cincinnati. The last matchup at Paul Brown Stadium was a Jets playoff win in 2009.

The Panthers won for the fourth time in five games following an 0-2 start. The Buccaneers, one of two NFL teams yet to win, have dropped the first seven games in a season for the seventh time in franchise history. Fans showed up at Raymond James Stadium carrying signs and wearing paper bags over their heads urging second-year coach Greg Schiano to be fired.

Elsewhere on Sunday, it's Miami at New England, Buffalo at New Orleans, Pittsburgh at Oakland, Green Bay at Minnesota, Atlanta at Arizona, the New York Giants at Philadelphia and San Francisco against Jacksonville at London in the second international game of the season.

On Monday, it's Seattle at St. Louis. □

Brett Favre dismisses possibility of joining Rams

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Brett Favre dismissed the possibility of returning to the NFL with St. Louis, and Rams coach Jeff Fisher declined to address reports he tried to lure the quarterback out of retirement to replace the injured Sam Bradford. Favre told Washington sports station WSPZ-AM he doesn't feel physically able to com-

pete and expressed fear that he has been affected by concussions. "It's flattering, but you know there's no way I'm going to do that," Favre said on Thursday. Fisher changed the subject after practice, then said "Nice try" when asked whether the 44-year-old Favre could be ready to play. Bradford tore his left

ACL on Sunday and is out for the season with a knee injury. "I don't remember my daughter playing soccer, playing youth soccer, one summer," Favre told WSPZ. "I don't remember that. I got a pretty good memory, and I have a tendency like we all do to say, 'Where are my glasses?' and they're on your head.

This was pretty shocking to me that I couldn't remember my daughter playing youth soccer, just one summer, I think. I remember her playing basketball, I remember her playing volleyball, so I kind of think maybe she only played a game or two. I think she played eight. So that's a little bit scary to me. For the

first time in 44 years, that put a little fear in me. ...

"I think after 20 years, God only knows the toll."

Kellen Clemens, the backup the past two seasons, will make his 13th career start on Monday against the Seattle Seahawks. The Rams also signed quarterbacks Brady Quinn and Austin Davis. □

NHL Capsules

Coburn's goal gives Flyers 2-1 win over Rangers

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Braydon Coburn broke a dead-lock 3:33 into the third period, and Steve Mason made the lead stand up as the Philadelphia Flyers beat the New York Rangers 2-1 on Thursday night for their second win of the season.

Matt Read scored a short-handed goal and added an assist, and Mason made 30 saves for Philadelphia (2-7), which snapped a four-game losing streak. The Flyers are still off to their worst start through nine games.

New York's Cam Talbot was solid in net in his NHL debut, making 25 saves in place of injured regular Henrik Lundqvist, but the Rangers (2-6) lost for the fifth time in six games. They have one game left on their season-starting, nine-game road trip.

The Rangers, who got a goal from Brad Richards, thought they had gotten even at 2, but a video replay determined that J.T. Miller kicked the puck into the net.

CANUCKS 3, DEVILS 2, SO NEWARK, New Jersey (AP) — Mike Santorelli scored the only goal in the shoot-out to help Vancouver edge New Jersey.

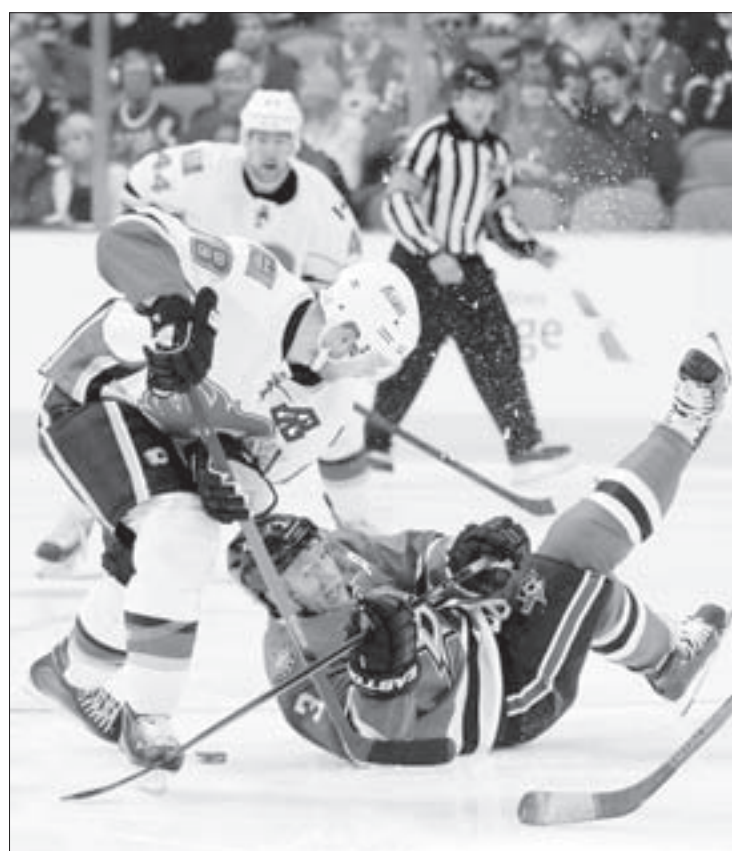
In a matchup of former goaltending teammates, Roberto Luongo got the best of Cory Schneider — who used to be his back-up in Vancouver. Luongo turned aside Travis Zajac, Adam Henrique and Patrik Elias in the tiebreaker to make Santorelli's goal stand up.

The Devils took a 1-0 lead just 5:05 into the game when Andrei Loktonov found Elias for his third goal. Ryan Kesler tied it at 6:07 with his fifth goal.

New Jersey (1-5-4) went back in front with a power-play goal 3:34 later on Eric Gelinas' first NHL goal. Gelinas was called up from Albany of the AHL on Wednesday.

But Vancouver tied it at 2 with 7:23 left in the second when Daniel Sedin netted his fourth of the season.

Luongo made 28 saves before the shootout. Schneider stopped 19.



Calgary Flames center Matt Stajan (18) fights with Dallas Stars defenseman Stephane Robidas (3) for control of a loose puck in the first period of an NHL hockey game on Thursday, Oct. 24, 2013, in Dallas.

It was the second straight road win after regulation for the Canucks, who beat the New York Islanders in overtime on Tuesday.

BRUINS 2, SHARKS 1 BOSTON (AP) — David Kre-

ji tipped in a shot with 0.8 seconds left in the third period as Boston sent San Jose to its first regulation loss of the season.

Jarome Iginla scored his first goal with the Bruins (7-

2), and Tuukka Rask made 38 saves. Patrick Marleau had San Jose's goal, his eighth of the season. Antti Niemi stopped 15 shots.

Krejci, positioned in the slot, tipped defenseman Adam McQuaid's shot from the point between Niemi's pads for the game-winner. The Sharks (8-1-1) tied the game 18 seconds into the third period.

LIGHTNING 6, BLACK-HAWKS 5, OT

TAMPA, Florida (AP) — Martin St. Louis scored 1:16 into overtime to give Tampa Bay a win over Chicago Blackhawks.

St. Louis netted the game-winner from in-close. The Tampa Bay captain also had an assist and moved past Neal Broten (923) for 93rd place on the NHL career points list.

Steven Stamkos scored a tiebreaking power-play goal as Tampa Bay took a 5-4 lead with 2:29 left in regulation.

Chicago's Jonathan Toews was credited with the tying goal with 1:49 remaining after the Lightning put the puck into their own net. □



Ted Ligety of the United States, trains in Soelden, Austria, Friday, Oct. 25, 2013. Ted Ligety will be the overwhelming favorite when the Olympic ski season opens on Sunday with a World Cup giant slalom on Rettenbach glacier. The American has won this race for the past two years and finished on the podium for the past five.

Associated Press

ERIC WILLEMSSEN

Associated Press

SOELDEN, Austria (AP) — Ted Ligety's giant slalom rivals hope they've finally solved the puzzle.

GS rivals try to match Ligety's skiing and setup

Following last year's rule change for GS skis, the American stunned his competitors as he started to win races by margins the sport hadn't seen for decades. Ligety won six of eight World Cup races and successfully defended his world title in the discipline. The season-opening race Sunday will provide a hint as to whether other racers are catching up, with Ligety eyeing his third straight victory on the Rettenbach glacier. Last year, he beat the field by a massive 2.75 seconds.

The American's dominance was, first of all, the reward for his extensive preparation, putting in countless hours of material testing and physical training even a year before the longer and narrower skis had to be used.

But also, his equipment supplier developed custom-made binding plates

that perfectly suited his style of skiing.

"I guess with how I skied in GS, everyone switched to a similar plate," Ligety said. "It's just a copycat kind of thing. I had success on it so the other guys are trying it."

The plates are mounted under the bindings, making the boots sit higher above the ski. It enables a skier to put more pressure on the edges of the skis.

Unfortunately for the likes of Marcel Hirscher and Alexis Pinturault, Ligety's ski setup isn't that easy to copy.

Ligety and manufacturer Head are reluctant to provide detailed information about the plates. And either way, they wouldn't work similarly for everyone. "I know a lot of companies were not into making aluminum plates because they're expensive to make," Ligety said. "But now they realize it's actu-

ally a good setup. It's not perfect for everybody. Not everybody on Head uses it. It's really a personal thing." According to Ligety, the plate "doesn't get in the way of the flex of the ski as much."

"It has a lot of hinges in it," he said. "The plate itself doesn't bend at all, it's just hinged in a lot of places, and free floating in a lot of places so it allows the ski to bend better, which for me it allows a better transfer of power."

Overall champion Hirscher, who took one of the two giant slaloms Ligety didn't win, has tried the American's setup himself — but wasn't satisfied.

"It worked quite well for him personally, but it won't work perfectly for everybody," the Austrian said. "Atomic has made a similar ski available but it didn't suit me too well.

Much depends on your

physique."

Instead, Hirscher has been focusing on his on his skiing technique, acknowledging that Ligety is arching GS turns smoother than he does.

"Basically, that's true," the Austrian said. "You can always improve. I am working on it but it's not so easy. That's definitely Ted's plus factor."

As Ligety had already been their leading GS racer, Head started to design the new skis specifically for his needs, according to the company's race chief Rainer Salzgeber.

"He had his own model specially built for him," Salzgeber said. "We started relatively early — one year before — and did many test runs. During the 11-12 season, it was a bit difficult for the athletes to test new material all the time. But for 12-13, it has definitely paid off." □



Switzerland's Roger Federer returns a ball to Bulgaria's Grigor Dimitrov, during their quarter final match, at the Swiss Indoors tennis tournament at the St. Jakobshalle in Basel, Switzerland, on Friday, Oct. 25, 2013.

Associated Press

Federer beats Dimitrov in Swiss quarters

BASEL, Switzerland (AP) — Roger Federer raised his game to beat Grigor Dimitrov of Bulgaria 6-3, 7-6 (2) Friday in the quarterfinals at his hometown Swiss Indoors tournament.

Federer found the kind of form that has often eluded him in a difficult, injury-hit season and saved three straight set points when trailing 5-3 in the second set.

The third-seeded Swiss was never threatened in the tiebreaker against the eight-seeded Dimitrov, who won his first career title last week in Stockholm.

Federer will face 40th-ranked Vasek Pospisil in the semifinals on Saturday.

Earlier, top-seeded Juan Martin del Potro of Argentina used his powerful serve to beat Paul-Henri Mathieu of France 6-4, 6-4.

Del Potro, who beat Federer in the 2012 final, will play French doubles specialist Edouard Roger-Vasselin in the semifinals.

After winning just one title this season, Federer hoped the home comforts of Basel could spark a strong finish to the season and seal his place at the ATP World Tour Finals in London next month.

He will qualify if he wins

his sixth Swiss Indoors title ahead of the last regular tour event next week in Paris.

Federer was quickly in trouble Friday in his opening service game, trailing 0-40 and saving five break points before holding.

He broke to lead 4-3 with a forehand winner, and clinched the set on Dimitrov's serve.

Federer double-faulted to concede a break in the third game of the second set, but broke back for 5-5 when Dimitrov sent an overhead beyond the baseline.

On match point, Federer hit a serve that Dimitrov could not handle, prompting a roar of relief from his Swiss fans.

Del Potro had a more routine victory, hitting 11 aces and never facing a break point against the 101st-ranked Mathieu.

"I've been working a lot on my serve to have this kind of match," said Del Potro, whose No. 5 ranking is one place above Federer.

In matchups of unseeded opponents, Roger-Vasselin beat Daniel Brands of Germany 6-3, 4-6, 6-3, before Pospisil beat Ivan Dodig of Croatia 7-6 (11), 6-4. □

Kvitova joins Li in WTA Championships semifinals



Petra Kvitova of Czech Republic shouts out after she returned a shot to Angelique Kerber of Germany during their tennis match at the WTA Championship in Istanbul, Turkey, Friday, Oct. 25, 2013. The world's top female tennis players compete in the championships which runs from Oct. 22 until Oct. 27.

Associated Press

NESHA STARCEVIC

AP Sports Writer

ISTANBUL (AP) — Li Na swept past the ailing Victoria Azarenka 6-2, 6-1 to earn a place in the semifinals of the WTA Championships at the expense of the second-ranked Australian Open champion on Friday. The fourth-seeded Li will play 2011 champion Petra Kvitova, who came from behind to beat Angelique Kerber 6-7 (3), 6-2, 6-3.

Azarenka's loss meant Jelena Jankovic advanced to the semis before she had to play Sara Errani late Friday. Jankovic will play defending champion Serena Williams. Williams swept her group on Thursday. Williams has a 7-4 career edge over Jankovic, while Li and Kvitova are tied 3-3.

Azarenka hurt her back while serving in the sixth game of the first set and was clearly in pain for the rest of the match. She took a medical timeout and received treatment during several changeovers but stayed on court despite being hardly able to move and wincing in pain, at one moment coming to tears.

"I just wanted to try to do my best for the fans who came and watched our match, for respect for my

opponent. It was just about trying to do the most you can out there," Azarenka said. She did win one game with some ferocious serving, but mostly stayed in the middle of the baseline and tried to hit quick winners if the ball came her way.

"You know, in the end of the day, it's my decision what I'm going to do," Azarenka said.

Azarenka said her back suddenly seized up as she tried to serve hard but that the trainers told her there was no structural damage. The fifth-seeded Kvitova, a former Wimbledon champion, led 4-1 before Kerber battled back to level at 5-5. In the tiebreaker, Kerber kept up the pressure on Kvitova, who double-faulted to set up three set points for her opponent. Kerber converted the first with a service winner.

In the second set, Kvitova broke for the second time in the seventh game by first playing a crisp volley winner and then hitting a powerful return.

"The beginning of the second set was really tough. She had a lot of chances," Kvitova said. "I just tried to play my game, play some winners, and go for the net."

There were three straight breaks at the start of the third, before Kvitova fought off two break points to go up 3-1. She sealed the win thanks to two straight errors by Kerber. Kerber was seeded eighth after the withdrawal of third-ranked Maria Sharapova because of a shoulder injury. Kvitova had to withdraw from last year's tournament with an injury after the first match.

"I gave everything I could today," Kerber said. "Of course, I'm a little bit disappointed, but Petra was playing very well in the important moments. My serve was not really the best today, but yeah, I was just trying everything."

Li, who lost to Azarenka in the final of the Australian Open and in both previous round-robin matches at the WTA Championships 2012 and 2011, said her toughest challenge Friday was mental.

"I mean, today the match is not about tennis, about fitness ... because I thought maybe after the first set she will give up or retire, but she still try to continue to play," Li said. "I think it's tough because I have to focus, hope all time, because you never know what happen on the court." □

US stocks up on profit gains from Microsoft, Amazon

BERNARD CONDON

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Strong third-quarter results from technology companies drove investors into stocks on Friday, giving the market its third straight weekly gain.

After reporting results that topped expectations, Microsoft rose 6 percent and Amazon.com rose 9 percent. The Standard & Poor's 500 index hit a record. The Nasdaq is the highest it's been in 13 years.

The gains were broad. All 10 industry groups in the S&P 500 rose, led by telecommunications with an increase of 1 percent.

Most companies that have reported third-quarter earnings are beating financial analysts' estimates. Even so, earnings for companies in the S&P 500 index are expected to grow just 4.5 percent over the same period a year ago, according to S&P Capital IQ, a research firm. At the start of the year, earnings were expected to rise at more than twice that pace.

"The question is: What is the outlook for earnings?" Steven Ricchiuto, chief economist at Mizuho Securities, said. "There is only so much you can do with cost-cutting."

Major U.S. stock indexes have soared this year. The S&P 500 is up 23 percent, the Nasdaq composite 31 percent.

In addition to higher earn-

ings, investors have been encouraged by continued economic stimulus from the Federal Reserve. Many had expected the Fed to pull back from its stimulus before the end of year, but now think the central bank will hold off until next year, possibly until March.

The Fed is buying \$85 billion worth of U.S. government and other bonds with the aim of keeping interest rates low.

The stimulus program has helped investors brush aside a few warning signs about the market. Stocks look fully priced by some measures comparing them to earnings, for instance. And revenue growth is slowing.

Revenue for S&P 500 companies is expected to grow just 2 percent for all of 2013, half the growth of the year before.

Economic news Friday suggested they may struggle to increase sales for a while yet.

The U.S. government that reported orders for long-lasting factory goods, excluding aircraft and military-related products, fell 1.1 percent.

Also, the University of Michigan said its index of U.S. consumer sentiment fell in October as concern grew that the partial government shutdown this month and the political fight over the nation's borrowing limit would slow growth.

The Dow rose 61.07 points,

or 0.4 percent, to close at 15,570.28.

The S&P 500 rose 7.70 points, 0.4 percent, to 1,759.77. The S&P also closed at a record high Tuesday.

The Nasdaq composite

forecasts for revenue and earnings, giving hope to investors that its shift to devices and services from PC-based software will be successful. Microsoft rose \$2.01, or 6 percent, to \$35.73 after

Thursday that its revenue surged 24 percent to \$13.8 billion in the third quarter, more than financial analysts had expected.

Zynga rose 19 cents, or 5 percent, to \$3.73 after the



NY/NJ Super Bowl Host Committee Co-Chair Jonathan Tisch, left, Co-Chairman of Loews Corporation and Treasurer of the New York Giants, smiles as NYSE CEO Duncan Niederauer, poses for a photo with the Vince Lombardi Super Bowl Trophy during opening bell ceremonies at the New York Stock Exchange, Friday, Oct. 25, 2013.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

rose 14.40 points, or 0.4 percent, to 3,943.36. That was its highest close since September 2000.

Three stocks rose for every two that fell on the New York Stock Exchange.

Microsoft beat analysts'

reporting a 17 percent increase in third quarter net income late Thursday.

Amazon.com was up \$31.18, or 9 percent, to \$363 as investors continue to shrug off its losses. The online retailer reported late

Internet gaming company reported it had cut its losses in the third quarter. The maker of "Farmville" and "Mafia Wars" is trying to appeal more to users of smartphones and tablet computers under a new CEO. □

Commodities: Coffee futures fall for a ninth straight day

KEN SWEET

AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Coffee prices fell for the ninth day in a row on Friday, the longest losing streak in more than 11 years.

Arabica coffee for December delivery fell 1.2 cents, or 1.1 percent, to \$1.091 a pound in New York. That's the lowest price since March 2009.

Heavy rains in Brazil, the world's largest producer of coffee, should result in another good harvest in 2014, said Sterling Smith, a commodities specialist with Citi-



group. Coffee prices have been steadily declining for two and half years, due to strong harvests in Brazil. The good harvests have created a glut of supply, which pushed down prices.

The amount of unroasted

coffee in storage in the U.S. was at 5.446 million 60-kilogram bags in September, according to Green Coffee Association, an industry trade group. While that's down slightly from August, coffee stocks remain at a four-year high.

With these pressures, Smith said coffee prices could fall to \$1 a pound. That's good news for Americans, who are by far the world's largest consumers of coffee.

In other agricultural commodities, December wheat prices were down 5.75 cents, or 0.8 percent, to

\$6.9075 a bushel. December corn prices fell less than a cent to \$4.40 a bushel and November soybeans prices fell 9.75 cents, or 0.7 percent, to \$13 a bushel.

This is expected to be a large harvest weekend for U.S. farmers. Those forecasts have pushed corn, wheat and soybean prices lower, Smith said.

Metal prices were mixed. Gold for December delivery rose \$2.20, or 0.2 percent, to \$1,352.50 an ounce. Silver prices fell 18.3 cents, or 0.8 percent, to \$22.64 an ounce.

High-grade copper prices rose less than a cent to \$3.269 a pound. Platinum prices were basically flat, falling 70 cents to \$1,455.50 an ounce. December palladium prices were also flat, rising 10 cents to \$747.90 an ounce. Energy prices were also mixed. Crude oil rose 74 cents to \$97.85 a barrel in New York. Natural gas rose 7.8 cents to \$3.71 per thousand cubic feet. Heating oil rose a penny to \$2.91 a gallon and wholesale gasoline was down less than a penny to \$2.587 a gallon. □

UPS more than doubles 3Q profit

The Associated Press

A pickup in deliveries helped UPS more than double its profit from a year ago, when the company took a hit from pension-restructuring costs.

UPS delivered more than 1 billion packages in the quarter, an increase of 4.6 percent, led by gains in international-export and U.S. ground shipments.

The company said it continued to see international customers shifting to cheaper shipping options. United Parcel Service Co. said Friday that net income in the third quarter soared to \$1.10 billion, or \$1.16 per share. That was a penny better than analysts expected and an increase over the \$469 million, or 48 cents per share, that UPS earned a year ago.

Revenue rose 3.4 percent to \$13.52 billion, which was below analysts' forecast of \$13.59 billion, according to FactSet.

Expenses declined 4.8 percent. Spending on compensation and benefits fell 8.1 percent from a year ago, when UPS took a charge of \$896 million to restructure New England pension obligations.

The company said it was standing by its forecast of full-year earnings between \$4.65 and \$4.85 per share. Analysts expect \$4.74 per share.

Delivery companies expect a pickup in business during the fourth quarter as they handle holiday gift shipments. This week, FedEx Corp. predicted volumes on peak December days will rise by double-digit percentages over last year.

UPS chief financial officer Kurt Kuehn said, "Although some major retailers have expressed caution about holiday spending, they still expect robust online sales." He said this year's late Thanksgiving holiday, Nov. 28, will create delivery challenges by compressing the peak season. □

Royal Philips breaks off deal with Funai

TOBY STERLING

AP Business Writer

AMSTERDAM (AP) — Royal Philips NV said Friday it has ended a \$200-million sale and licensing deal it struck this year with Japan's Funai Electric Co. and will seek damages for breach of contract.

Under the January agreement, Funai was to assume production of Philips' audio, video and media accessories unit and license the right to distribute the products with Philips branding for five years.

Philips said in a statement that the reason the deal is

canceled is Funai "refused to take the necessary steps to enable completion of the transaction." Calls to Funai's offices in Osaka and Tokyo went unanswered. Chief Executive Frans van Houten said the business had been fully separated and prepared for transfer, but it is profitable and will return to Philips "with a lower cost structure" than it had before.

The Hong Kong-based subsidiary has around 1.2 billion euros (\$1.66 billion) in annual sales and 2,000 employees, Philips said.

Philips spokesman Joost Ak-

kermans said the company will seek damages from Funai through the Paris-based International Court of Arbitration, as was specified in their January agreement. He said he could not elaborate on the reasons for the break, due to the pending legal fight.

But he underlined that Philips had been operating on the assumption that the deal would close this year as planned as recently as Monday, when Philips reported third quarter earnings.

The break was "triggered by events in the past day,

past 12 hours even," Akkermans said.

"Taking this step is regrettable," he said. "But at the same time we felt we had to do it" to protect the interests of the company.

In the statement, CEO Van Houten said the business, previously known as Philips Lifestyle Entertainment, will now be called WOOX Innovations.

It makes home audio systems, headphones, speakers, portable audio and video players, media players, telephones, and an array of cables, chargers and batteries. □

P&G fiscal 1st quarter net income rises



The Procter & Gamble Co. headquarters building in Cincinnati are featured. On Friday, Oct. 25, 2013, Procter & Gamble said its first-quarter net income rose 8 percent as world's largest consumer sold more of its detergent and diapers globally and cut costs. The results were in line with Wall Street expectations.

MAE ANDERSON

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Procter & Gamble's fiscal first-quarter net income rose 8 percent as the world's largest consumer products company sold more of its detergent and diapers globally and cut costs.

The results were in line with Wall Street expectations and the company reaffirmed its 2014 forecast.

The Cincinnati-based company, whose products range from Tide detergent to Crest toothpaste and Gillette razors, is in the midst of a turnaround plan that includes focusing on its most

profitable core businesses and cutting costs to save \$10 billion by fiscal 2016.

In the developed markets such as the U.S. and Europe, P&G has been trying to adjust its prices to stay competitive, cutting prices on some products and raising prices on others. P&G said it held or grew market share in two-thirds of its product categories globally, and two-thirds to 70 percent of categories in North America.

But CFO Jon Moeller that there are some brands in its beauty segment that need to do better, specifically its Oil Of Olay skin care busi-

ness, North American Pantene hair products and its Salon professional businesses.

"I will readily admit we have more work to do," he said in a call with analysts. P&G is also working on localizing its supply chains to save money.

"We're continuing to work on North America and European supply chain redesign to lower-cost, reduce inventory and improve customer service," Moeller said. "This work will require additional investment in both restructuring and capital, but should generate very attractive returns."

Net income for the three months ended Sept. 30 after paying preferred dividends rose to \$3.03 billion, or \$1.04 per share. That compares with net income of \$2.81 billion, or 96 cents per share, last year. Excluding one-time items net income was \$1.05 per share, matching analyst expectations, according to FactSet.

Revenue rose 2 percent to \$21.2 billion from \$20.74 billion. Analysts expected revenue of \$21 billion.

Total volume rose 4 percent as increases in beauty, fabric care and home care, and baby, feminine and family care categories was offset by declines in grooming and health care. P&G reiterated its 2014 guidance of earnings excluding one-time items to rise 5 percent to 7 percent, implying results of \$4.25 to \$4.33 per share. It expects revenue to rise 1 percent to 2 percent, implying revenue of \$85 billion to \$85.85 billion. Analysts expect earnings of \$4.29 per share on revenue of \$85.71 billion.

Oppenheimer & Co. Joseph Altobello said that while he is "encouraged" by "healthy" growth in sales and volume, P&G's turnaround will take time, and the future improvement is already reflected in the stock price. He kept his "Perform," rating on the stock. □

(AP Photo/Al Behrman)

Mutts



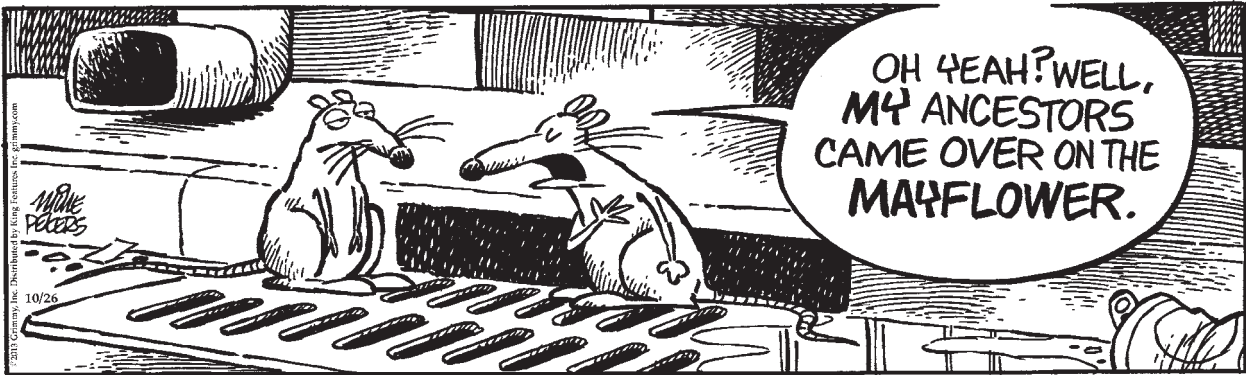
6 Chix



Blondie



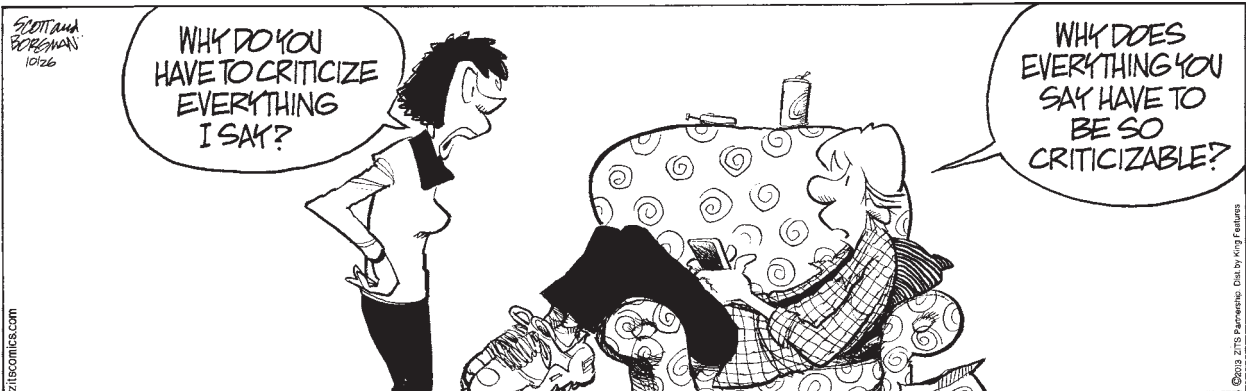
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	9		4			6
1			7	5		
			1			
	8			7		3
4		6			2	7
	5		3			9
			3			
		6		2		3
2			9		8	

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

10/26

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

3	2	5	1	6	4	9	7	8
8	7	1	5	3	9	6	4	2
6	9	4	8	2	7	3	5	1
4	1	8	7	5	6	2	9	3
7	5	6	3	9	2	1	8	4
9	3	2	4	8	1	7	6	5
2	8	7	9	1	5	4	3	6
5	6	9	2	4	3	8	1	7
1	4	3	6	7	8	5	2	9

ACROSS

- Sharpen
- Float along aimlessly
- Taverns
- Oast, for one
- Passenger
- Perched upon
- Bottom
- Blazing
- Uncommon
- Put in order
- Extended one's arm
- Helium or hydrogen
- Row of shrubs
- Use a broom
- Remote
- Parent or grandparent
- Cornucopia
- Harness
- Mouthpiece
- Write an auto policy for
- Long ; in the distant past
- Beauty competition
- Quilting party
- Boarder
- Diver's flipper
- Paper bag
- Sly person
- Squishy soil
- Makes booties
- Skin-numbing anesthetic
- Pod vegetable
- Deceive
- Capes
- Tiny bit
- Of a Vatican leader
- New Zealander, familiarly
- Bed size
- Fraternity letter
- Level; smooth
- Sour
- More modern
- Writing table
- Israeli dance
- Finished; done
- Close by

DOWN

- Island
- Assist
- Close by

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
17				18					19			
20				21			22		23			
			24			25						
26	27	28			29			30	31	32	33	
34				35			36					
37			38				39			40		
41		42			43				44			
45					46			47				
		48	49				50					
51	52	53					54			55	56	57
58				59		60			61			
62				63					64			
65				66					67			

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

10/26/13

Friday's Puzzle Solved

4	Infuriates	ASTIR	SNAG	RANG
5	Boring events	RHINO	TODD	EWER
6	with; abounding in	TORSO	ODDS	CARE
7	Tyrant; Amin	SPEAKERS	STARVE	
8	Mel or José	NINE	YIELDED	
9	Cornered	AGREED	NEPAL	
10	Packages	IRE	SERUM	KEATS
11	Western state	DEAN	DUKES	DIRE
12	Drill a hole	SYRUP	DENIM	MEL
13	Raced	TAPES	TASSEL	
21	Siesta	PARTNER	PERU	
23	Representative	OBOIST	VASTNESS	
25	Despicable	LODE	EPIC	IDAHO
26	Official stamps	LIES	RACE	AARON
27	Covered; pioneer vehicle	SLOT	SLED	NESTS
28	Wear away			
29	Desert fruit			
31	Middle East sheikhdom			
32	Build			
33	Has a strong odor			
35	Forbidden entry to			
36	Hotel			
38	Tea variety			
39	Assist			
42	Chivalrous			

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10/26/13

- Ate between meals
- Catcher's glove
- French señora
- Des Moines, —
- Baseball's — Griffey, Jr.
- Mix with a wooden spoon
- Poultry shop purchase
- Book leaf
- Is in the red
- Bee colony
- Basin
- Church seat

Mr. Ortiz, a modern version of Mr. October

TYLER KEPNER

© 2013 New York Times

BOSTON - They are all gone now, the legends of the fall of 2004. All except David Ortiz, who welcomed back seven of his former teammates before Game 2 of another World Series against the St. Louis Cardinals on Thursday at Fenway Park.

One by one, they marched to the emerald infield for a ceremony: Jason Varitek, Keith Foulke, Mike Timlin, Kevin Millar, Trot Nixon, Derek Lowe and Pedro Martinez, a seven-man first-pitch firing squad. Ortiz delivered their baseballs from a small bucket, flipping one to each of his former teammates as he worked the line, like a jolly Easter Bunny giving out eggs.

Ortiz is not the cuddly caricature he is so often made out to be. He can be profane and prone to violent outbursts, as a telephone in the Camden Yards dugout can attest. He never really explained his positive test for performance-enhancing drugs in 2003, when the results were supposed to be anonymous.

But he gets a pass for all of it here, for helping produce two championships and for rising so often when the Red Sox need him. The Cardinals evened this World Series with a 4-2 victory but only by surviving Ortiz's almost routine home run.

Ortiz was trying to join Scott Brosius of the 1998-2000 Yankees, the only player to be on the winning team in each of his first 10 World Series games. Ortiz was three innings away from doing it, after lifting a go-ahead two-run homer over the Green Monster in the sixth inning.

With one out, Ortiz connected on a full-count change-up from Michael Wacha, who entered Ortiz's turn at bat with a shut-out and 97 pitches and finished it trailing, 2-1, with his pitch count up to 103. With one swing, Ortiz did more damage to Wacha than all other hitters had done to him in the past month.

Up to that point, Wacha had thrown 35 innings across his past five starts, one in the regular season and four in October, allowing one earned run for

a 0.26 ERA. Along the way, Wacha had come one out from a no-hitter; saved his team from first-round elimination in Pittsburgh; and

play, one more than Beltran, with whom he had been tied for eighth on the career list. After his ground-ball single off Car-

With the series tied, the scene shifts to Busch Stadium in St. Louis, where the designated hitter will not be used for Games 3, 4 and 5. The two most productive Red Sox hitters, Ortiz and Mike Napoli, play no positions besides first base and D.H., so one of them will be forced to sit. "The one outside view might be to put Mike Napoli behind the plate, but we wouldn't do that," manager John Farrell said before the game. "One or the other is going to sit, unfortunately." Napoli had a three-run double in Game 1 and was nearly the World Series Most Valuable Player for Texas against the Cardinals in 2011. But he had a dismal Game 2, with a walk, a double-play grounder, a strikeout and a pop-up with two runners on that ended a potential rally in the eighth. □



Boston Red Sox's David Ortiz hits a two-run home run during the sixth inning of Game 2 of baseball's World Series against the St. Louis Cardinals Thursday, Oct. 24, 2013, in Boston.

(AP Photo/David J. Phillip)

beaten baseball's best pitcher, Clayton Kershaw, twice to win the pennant. He even had a milkshake named for him in St. Louis. "It was like a vanilla," Wacha said Wednesday. "It had some Cracker Jacks in it, added a little baseball flair to it. And then there's some chocolate chips, I guess, in there, too."

There are milkshakes and there are candy bars, and Ortiz should have one of those by now. He is the closest thing to Reggie Jackson since Jackson became the original Mr. October. Even when he hits .091 in a playoff series, as he did in the American League Championship Series against Detroit, his theatrical flair steals the show. Ortiz launched his legend into deeper orbit in Game 2 against the Tigers, with a grand slam that turned the series and turned Torii Hunter upside down. Ortiz's disappearance for the rest of the games (he was 2 for 22 overall) hardly mattered. As Kirk Gibson knows, sometimes one big hit in a series is all you need.

Ortiz nearly hit another grand slam in Game 1 on Wednesday, but Carlos Beltran swooped over the fence for a catch. Ortiz settled for a sacrifice fly then and got his homer later, off Kevin Siegrist, a rocket to the front row of seats behind a bullpen roof in right. His homer off Wacha was Ortiz's 17th in postseason

play, one more than Beltran, with whom he had been tied for eighth on the career list. After his ground-ball single off Car-



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Oct. 27 Dr. Dennert

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Oct. 27

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Australia PM: Climate change not causing wildfires

ROD McGUIRK

Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia

(AP) — The government staunchly rejected arguments that climate change is causing the wildfires ravaging parts of eastern Australia following a record hot start to the spring season.

"That is complete hogwash," Prime Minister Tony Abbott told News Corp. Australian newspapers in an interview published on Friday.

Environment Minister Greg Hunt backed his prime minister, saying no individual event can be linked to climate change.

But a climate science organization abolished by Abbott's government released a report on Friday declaring a clear link between climate change and the wildfires. The severity and scale of the fires was unprecedented for this time of year, it said. Last month had been the hottest September on record in New South Wales state. The 12 months preceding it had been the hottest year



A resident serves firefighters tea and coffee while they wait to protect her home in Faulcombridge, 85 kms (53 miles) west of Sydney, in Australia Thursday, Oct. 24, 2013. Wildfires have destroyed more than 200 properties including 122 homes after blazes started in multiple locations in the Blue Mountains Thursday, Oct 18.

Associated Press

on record across Australia. The government abolished the state-funded Climate Commission after being elected last month. But the organization survives through public donations as the Climate Council to

continue its independent work of communicating reliable information about global warming.

To deny the influence of climate change on extreme fire weather placed people and property an

unnecessarily high risk, the report warned. The findings are interim, and the final report will be released next month.

Will Steffen, a Climate Council member and director of the Australian National University's Climate Change Institute, said he was frustrated that the established science on global warming was not yet accepted in Australia.

"We'd like to see a discussion in this country that gets beyond these futile debates about the science that have been settled for decades in the scientific literature and get on with the real debate about what is really the best way of dealing with the problem," Steffen told reporters. "That's where the political debate really needs to be."

Abbott argues that Australia has experienced wildfires for more than 200 years of European settlement and had suffered worse fires in the past.

This week, he accused Christiana Figueres, executive secretary of the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change, of "talking through her hat" when she referred to the Australian wildfires as the world "paying the price of carbon" in the atmosphere.

"They are desperate to find

anything that they think might pass as ammunition for their cause," Abbott said, referring to people who link the fires to global warming and who criticize his government's climate change policies.

Abbott's conservative government plans to repeal laws that force Australia's worst greenhouse gas polluters to pay a tax for every ton of carbon dioxide that they emit. The tax was introduced last year to reduce Australia's abundant greenhouse gas emissions. Australia is one of the world's worst greenhouse gas emitters on a per capita basis because of its heavy reliance on cheap coal for power generation. As the world's driest continent after Antarctica, scientists warn that Australia is also particularly vulnerable to climate extremes that come with climate change. A U.N.-created climate change panel issued a major report in Stockholm last month that said it was "extremely likely," or 95 percent likely, that global warming was man-made. The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the British meteorological office also released research in September that used computer simulations to conclude that climate change influenced some recent weather occurrences in Europe and the United States.

The wildfires that have burned around Sydney razed more than 200 homes and resulted in two deaths. One resident died of a heart attack while throwing buckets of water on his home last week, and a pilot died Thursday when his plane crashed while attempting to drop water on flames.

Adam Bandt, a lawmaker for the Australian Greens party that champions the carbon tax, was widely accused of politicizing the disaster when he tweeted at the height of the fire emergency last week: "Tony Abbott's plan means more bushfires for Australia & more pics like this of Sydney." □

U.S. approves GE brain imaging tool for Alzheimer's

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Food and Drug Administration on Friday approved a radioactive imaging chemical from General Electric to help screen patients for Alzheimer's disease and dementia.

The drug, Vizamyl, is an injection of radioactive material designed to highlight abnormal brain plaque in medical imaging scans.

Dementia caused by Alzheimer's is associated with buildup of the plaque, known as beta amyloid protein. However, it can also be found in patients who do not have neurological problems.

Vizamyl works by binding to the plaque and creating images that show up on positron emission tomography, or PET, scans of the brain.

A negative scan means

there is little plaque and the cause of dementia is probably not Alzheimer's, according to an FDA release. A positive scan means the patient has at least some plaque, but does not mean they definitely have Alzheimer's. The injection is intended as one tool to help physicians identify the cause of patient's cognitive decline.

Doctors currently diagnose Alzheimer's disease by observing patients and administering physical and mental tests.

The disease is the sixth-leading cause of death in the U.S. and the most common form of dementia, a term for brain disorders that affect memory, judgment and other mental functions.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention es-

timates that Alzheimer's affects 5 million elderly Americans.

The agency says that figure may triple in coming years as the people born in the years after World War II age, unless more effective ways are found to prevent the disease.

Alzheimer's attacks neurons in the brain, leading to problems with memory, thinking and behavior. There is no cure for the disease, and scientists are not even sure what causes it.

Vizamyl is manufactured for General Electric Co.'s GE Healthcare division by Medi-Physics Inc. It is the second drug FDA has approved to help screen for Alzheimer's in the last two years. The FDA approved a similar drug called Amyvid from Eli Lilly & Co. in April 2012. □

Son to follow in TV steps of 'Crocodile Hunter'

HONG KONG (AP) — The youngest Irwin is following in the TV hosting footsteps of late "Crocodile Hunter" Steve Irwin and big sister, Bindi.

Nine-year-old Robert Irwin will co-host "Wild But True" on Discovery Kids Asia, exploring parallels between nature and science. He calls it a "really, really cool concept" for a television show. "... it's about how science has gotten ideas and built from inventions from the natural world," he said.

The siblings appeared regularly on their father's show before he died from a sting ray injury in 2006 while shooting a documentary. Bindi Irwin also has television shows of her own and a few film credits. She says Robert doesn't need tips about being in front of the camera, but if there was

one piece of advice that she could give him, it would be something from their father.

"I think that the greatest tip that dad gave myself when we started filming is that he said, 'When you talk to the camera, just talk to it like you're talking to a person, because that's what you're doing, you're speaking to people in their living rooms,'" she explains. Robert says although he was just 3 when his father died, he has vivid memories.

"He was really, really passionate in every single thing that he did. I think it's really important to carry on for what he did, so I'm really glad that that's what we're doing," he says.

"I think we're really lucky too because so much of our lives together were



In this Thursday Oct. 24, 2013 photo, Robert Irwin, Australian-based animal activist and television personality, looks at his mother Terri Irwin, right, during an interview in Hong Kong.

Associated Press

filmed," adds his mother, Terri. "We've got that family opportunity of always

filming together, so we can look back on good times anytime we want."

"Wild But True" is set to premiere across Asia in the third quarter of 2014. □

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ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi, a true native Aruban started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced hand rolled cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi always had a interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crops. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba, he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The whole process took him 10 years to perfect. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the moulding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. Their handmade cigar box is specially designed with their "Aruhiba" logo. Petrocchi considers Aruhiba as a promotion for Aruba through its fine cigars. The company sells Aruhiba to the international markets as well. With any purchase of \$20 and up you receive a free "Aruhiba" cigar or ask for their gift box of 5 cigars get 1 FREE for only \$37. They open from Monday to Saturday from 9 am till 6:30 pm and on Sundays from 9 am to 1 pm. Aruhiba cigars are now available at the gift stores in your resort and at well-known cigar stores. Aruhiba gift boxes are now available at Dufry Shop at the Airport.



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Alex O'Loughlin ponders future on 'Hawaii Five-0'

RYAN PEARSON

AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Alex

O'Loughlin says he's signed up for two more seasons of "Hawaii Five-0" but is looking forward to a career beyond the hit TV series.

The 38-year-old actor plays policeman Steve McGarrett on the CBS series, now in its fourth season. He said the intense workload and shooting schedule had kept him out of other potential projects.

"Like I read Doug Liman's script, 'Everest,' which he's about to start directing — it's amazing and it's invigorating. But it's also heartbreaking at the same time because it feels so far away from me at the moment," O'Loughlin said at the Australians in Film awards dinner Thursday night. "I've never played one character for this long. And it's network TV, too, so it comes with its own set of challenges from the artist's perspective. But I'm very lucky. My kids will get



This Feb. 1, 1993 file photo shows Pop superstar Michael Jackson performing during the halftime show at the Super Bowl in Pasadena, Calif.

Associated Press

to go to good schools, we all eat organic food, and I live in Hawaii." The actor noted that the show — a reimagining of the 1970s series starring Jack Lord — had overcome a number of hurdles to remain consistently highly rated.

"I mean, we've had cast troubles. I got really hurt and had to go and sort myself out in the second season. We've had inju-

ries, we've had all sorts of things. It just keeps going," he said. "We can't seem to kill it. So I guess it's going to stick around for a while." As for how long he'll stick around: "At the moment I can't imagine working any longer than tomorrow. Because there's just so much work. But we'll see, we'll see. I want to do other things sooner rather than later." □

Wachowskis hope to surprise with next film

By RYAN PEARSON

AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- The

Wachowski siblings say they're hoping to again surprise audiences with the science-fiction movie "Jupiter Ascending," starring Channing Tatum and Mila Kunis. Andy and Lana Wachowski said in an interview Thursday night that they were overseeing editing and special effects for the movie set for release next summer. "It's a science fiction space opera," Lana Wachowski said outside an Australians in Film awards dinner. "It has a lot of things from a lot of genres that we love. It's got a lot of original action, it's got a lot of romance."

Andy Wachowski, 45, said



In this Oct. 24, 2012, file photo, co-directors Lana Wachowski and Andy Wachowski pose for a photo at the Los Angeles premiere of "Cloud Atlas" in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

editing "Jupiter Ascending," which the siblings wrote and are directing together, has been smoother than last year's ambitious,

multi-layered book adaptation "Cloud Atlas," though he called the new film's visual effects "way more complicated." □



In this Wednesday, April 21, 2010, file photo, cast member Alex O'Loughlin arrives at the premiere of "The Back-up Plan" in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Quincy Jones sues Michael Jackson's estate

ANTHONY McCARTNEY

AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Quincy

Jones sued Michael Jackson's estate on Friday claiming he is owed millions in royalties and production fees on some of the superstar's greatest hits.

Jones' lawsuit seeks at least \$10 million from the singer's estate and Sony Music Entertainment, claiming the entities improperly re-edited songs to deprive him of royalties and production fees. The music has been used in the film "This Is It" and a pair of Cirque du Soleil shows based on the King of Pop's songs, the lawsuit states.

Jones also claims that he should have received a producer's credit on the music in "This Is It." His lawsuit seeks an accounting of the estate's profits from the works so that Jones can determine how much he is owed.

The producer worked with Jackson on three of his most popular solo albums, "Off the Wall," "Thriller" and "Bad."

Jackson's estate wrote in a statement that it was saddened by Jones' lawsuit. "To the best of its knowledge, Mr. Jones has been appropriately compensated over approximately 35 years for his work with Michael," the statement said. An after-hours message left at Sony Music's New York offices was not immediately returned.

Jackson's hits "Billie Jean," "Thriller" and "Don't Stop 'Til You Get Enough" are among the songs Jones claims were re-edited to deprive him of royalties and his producer's fee.

Jones' lawsuit states the producer's contracts called for him to have the first opportunity to re-edit or alter the songs, in part to protect his reputation. □



Twitter, Women And Power



NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF
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Twitter is on schedule to go public as a company next month, a sparkling symbol of innovation, technology - and stale, old thinking reflected in a board of seven white men.

Twitter users are reportedly more likely to be female, so it's bizarre to have no women on the board. But the main reason to add women - not just on Twitter's board, but in politics, business and the news media - isn't just equity. This shouldn't be seen as a favor to women but as a step that would be good for all of us. In business, there's abundant evidence that inclusion of women in senior positions is linked to better results. Catalyst, a research organization, found that the companies with the most female board directors earned a 26 percent higher return on invested capital than the companies with the fewest women. Likewise, McKinsey & Co. found that the international companies with more women on their corporate boards far outperformed the average company in return on equity and other measures. Operating profit was 56 percent higher.

This isn't just about boardrooms, though. In the recent government shutdown debacle, some of the first efforts at hammering out a deal to end the crisis came from a group of women in the Senate who were disheartened by the political paralysis. Time magazine's headline online was: "Women Are the Only Adults Left in Washington."

That's progress: The Senate built a restroom off the floor for female members only in 1993, and now, a couple decades later, women are providing adult supervision in the "old boys' club." Still, there's a long way to go.

The World Economic Forum plans to release its annual Global Gender Gap Report on Thursday, and the United States ranks an embarrassing 23rd out of 136 countries in the status of women. The U.S. has actually slipped one slot since a year ago and does particularly poorly by international standards in wage equality and in numbers of women in the legislative branch.

Hard-nosed business executives seem to get that this is more than a social justice issue. In a survey by Spencer Stuart, the

executive search firm, and Corporate Board Member, a company that researches corporate boards, 4 out of 5 board members said that they believed that boardroom diversity "generally results in increased value for shareholders."

Yet of Fortune 500 companies, roughly 18 percent of board members are female. At this rate, it'll be after 2050 before women hold half of board seats. So what do women bring to the board table?

Scholarly research suggests that the best problem-solving doesn't come from a group of the best individual problem-solvers, but from a diverse team whose members complement each other. That's an argument for leadership that is varied in every way - in gender, race, economic background and ideology. Another reason companies with senior women may thrive might have little to do with gender. The promotion of women may just be a proxy for those companies that are most open-minded and forward-looking, and those perhaps are the qualities that are mainly driving profits.

Companies sometimes protest that they can't find qualified women. Rosabeth Moss Kanter, a professor at Harvard Business School, said that the real problem is boards trying to replicate themselves and that plenty of women would add value to the Twitter board. "I could come up with 30 names without thinking too hard," she said, adding that the challenge is to "look more broadly for talent and be more welcoming to people not identical to those in power."

And, sorry, Twitter, but how about adding not just one woman to your board, but three? Research suggests that what matters is having a critical mass of about 30 percent women. In Twitter's case, if it added three women, its board would still have as many men named Peter as it had women.

I also realize that I live in a glass house, because my world of punditry is a cacophony of mostly white male voices. Gender imbalance isn't just Twitter's problem, but a global challenge across many sectors.

In the midst of the 2008 economic cataclysm, there was introspection about whether the overwhelmingly male leadership in finance led to a macho culture of excessive risk-taking. A British study found that trading behavior reflected testosterone levels in employees' saliva: The more testosterone, the more risky the trades.

So would it all have been different if it had been Lehman Sisters?

Maybe not: Lehman Sisters, equally nondiverse, might also have been prone to herd behavior of a different kind. The smart bet would have been on an inclusive and diverse Lehman Brothers & Sisters - and there's a lesson there for Twitter, for our government, and for all of us. □



US: Addicted To The Apocalypse



PAUL KRUGMAN
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Once upon a time, walking around shouting "The end is nigh" got you labeled a kook, someone not to be taken seriously. These days, however, all the best people go around warning of looming disaster. In fact, you more or less have to subscribe to fantasies of fiscal apocalypse to be considered respectable.

And I do mean fantasies. Washington has spent the past three-plus years in terror of a debt crisis that keeps not happening, and, in fact, can't happen to a country like the United States, which has its own currency and borrows in that currency. Yet the scaremongers can't bring themselves to let go.

Consider, for example, Stanley Druckenmiller, the billionaire investor, who has lately made a splash with warnings about the burden of our entitlement programs. (Gee, why hasn't anyone else thought of making that point?) He could talk about the problems we may face a decade or two down the road. But, no. He seems to feel that he must warn about the looming threat of a financial crisis worse than 2008.

Or consider the deficit-scolld organization Fix the Debt, led by the omnipresent Alan Simpson and Erskine Bowles. It was, I suppose, predictable that Fix the Debt would respond to the latest budget deal with a news release trying to shift the focus to its favorite subject. But the or-

ganization wasn't content with declaring that America's long-run budget issues remain unresolved, which is true. It had to warn that "continuing to delay confronting our debt is letting a fire burn that could get out of control at any moment."

As I've already suggested, there are two remarkable things about this kind of doomsaying. One is that the doomsayers haven't rethought their premises despite being wrong again and again - perhaps because the news media continue to treat them with immense respect. The other is that as far as I can tell nobody, and I mean nobody, in the looming-apocalypse camp has tried to explain exactly how the predicted disaster would actually work.

On the Chicken Little aspect: It's actually awesome, in a way, to realize how long cries of looming disaster have filled our airwaves and op-ed pages. For example, I just reread an op-ed article by Alan Greenspan in The Wall Street Journal, warning that our budget deficit will lead to soaring inflation and interest rates. What about the reality of low inflation and low rates? That, he declares in the article, is "regrettable, because it is fostering a sense of complacency."

It's curious how readily people who normally revere the wisdom of markets declare the markets all wrong when they fail to panic the way they're supposed to. But the really striking thing at this point is the date: Greenspan's article was published in June 2010, almost three and a half years ago - and both inflation and interest rates remain low.

So has the ex-Maestro reconsidered his views after having been so wrong for so long? Not a bit. His new (and pretty bad) book declares that "the bias toward unconstrained deficit spending is our top domestic economic problem."

Meanwhile, about that oft-

prophesied, never-arriving debt crisis: In Senate testimony more than two and half years ago, Bowles warned that we were likely to face a fiscal crisis within around two years, and he urged his listeners to "just stop for a minute and think about what happens" if "our bankers in Asia" stop buying our debt. But has he, or anyone in his camp, actually tried to think through what would happen? No, not really. They just assume it would cause soaring interest rates and economic collapse, when both theory and evidence suggest otherwise.

Don't believe me? Look at Japan, a country that, like America, has its own currency and borrows in that currency, and has much higher debt relative to GDP than we do. Since taking office, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has, in effect, engineered exactly the kind of loss of confidence the debt worriers fear - that is, he has persuaded investors that deflation is over and inflation lies ahead, which reduces the attractiveness of Japanese bonds. And the effects on the Japanese economy have been entirely positive! Interest rates are still low, because people expect the Bank of Japan (the equivalent of our Federal Reserve) to keep them low; the yen has fallen, which is a good thing, because it makes Japanese exports more competitive. And Japanese economic growth has actually accelerated.

Why, then, should we fear a debt apocalypse here? Surely, you may think, someone in the debt-apocalypse community has offered a clear explanation. But nobody has.

So the next time you see some serious-looking man in a suit declaring that we're teetering on the precipice of fiscal doom, don't be afraid. He and his friends have been wrong about everything so far, and they literally have no idea what they're talking about. □

Twitter Talk Tantalizes, But Beware The IPO

PAUL SULLIVAN

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Perhaps you've heard that Twitter is planning an initial public offering.

On Thursday, the company announced that it would set its stock price somewhere between \$17 and \$20 a share, an amount that would earn it roughly \$1.3 billion, and move the sale up to Nov. 6.

While it's a much-anticipated event, it's a little too soon to tell whether it will generate the same frenzy as the Facebook IPO last year. Or whether, given

from the same point last year, and the dollar values of those offerings has increased 10 percent. Of those offerings, the top three sectors were energy, financial services and health care companies. Technology was in fifth place, with just 12 percent of the offerings.

Twitter is the type of IPO that creates attention that others like USA Compression Partners, the first company to go public in 2013, or Evertec, the largest technology IPO of the year to date, cannot. (USA

Pets.com and its ubiquitous sock-puppet spokesman: The company liquidated the same year it went public, although the sock puppet had a second career. With IPOs, there are more subtle risks than total failure, particularly for an investor who is jittery or thinks IPOs go up in value as they did in the late 1990s.

Advisers I heard from said, simply, don't do it - at least not as a stock-picking opportunity. "Everyone remembers the big winners," said Joe Jennings, investment director for the Mary-

your own portfolio and your goals and objectives?"

While Jennings is an outsider looking in on companies, even some insiders will admit that they know less than people think they do about a company's IPO.

Peter Stern, who has been successful in starting and selling several companies, including Datek Online to Ameritrade, said he had sold a company he started to Facebook for stock before the company's IPO. He turned down larger, cash offers from several suitors, he said, because

stock fell by half after the announcement, but then rose substantially over the next 18 months.

He said investors in an IPO that doesn't go straight up had to ask themselves the same questions that employees did: Is it worth it to hold onto stock that could be worth a lot or worthless, or do you sell some shares to reduce your risk?

With Facebook, he said he had taken the emotion out of the decision by selling two large chunks at set prices. "What do I know about Facebook?" he said. "I know more about Facebook than some random, schlep person who is saying he knows a lot about Facebook. But I've worked on Wall Street for way too long to think that I can predict the future."

A better approach may be to look at what that company does and ask if it is something that will be needed.

Chris Errico, senior portfolio manager at UBS Wealth Management Americas, said: "I don't think the question is about buying the IPO but investing in the business long term. If you're talking about Twitter, you have to ask, is it a business that's going to be around for the next 20 years? I don't know. I'm not on Twitter. Maybe I'm too old. But a lot of people like it." This is how Stern said he planned to approach investing in companies involved in 3-D printing.

"That's a trend I believe in," he said. "But I don't know who is going to win, so I'll buy a basket of stocks and figure the winners are going to buy the losers."

There is also something to be said for erasing all memory of the IPO gold rush of the 1990s and taking a longer-term view.

Hank Erbe, who heads up the IPO effort for Fidelity Capital Markets, said the company had a policy of requiring retail investors to hold IPO shares for at least 15 days. People who sold their shares before that time were barred for 180 days for the first offense and a year for the second. After the third offense, they were barred from future allocations of IPO shares. □



Peter Stern, who has been successful in starting and selling several companies, at his home in New York, Oct. 25, 2013. Some initial public stock offerings get so much attention they can cloud the judgment, but investors like Stern must understand how a company's stock will fit in their portfolio. (Elizabeth D. Herman/The New York Times)

Facebook's disastrous debut - technical problems, and an initial drop in the stock's value of more than 50 percent - Twitter's owners want to manage expectations.

Twitter is far from alone in going public this year; there have been over 160 other IPOs so far. But Twitter's prominence offers a good moment to stop and ask: Should any individual investors buy into an initial public offering, and if so, how should they think about doing it?

According to research from Fidelity Investments, the number of IPOs so far this year is up 40 percent

Compression makes equipment related to shale drilling. Evertec processes payments from Latin America.) And that might entice people to try to buy the stock without thinking it through.

"The market for IPOs is as strong as it has been in some time," said Brian Conroy, president of Fidelity Capital Markets. "The more brand recognition a company has in the marketplace, the higher probability it will attract a greater share of investors, all things considered."

But excitement for a brand and financial success are not always related. Recall

land region of PNC Wealth Management. "Most people don't remember the IPOs that flamed out after the initial offering."

For clients who persist, he reminds them of three things. Information on the company ahead of an IPO is usually limited. Investing with the intent to sell the stock at a quick profit is risky, if not a recipe for disaster. And larger offerings often mean more hype, which can cloud people's judgment.

"With any investment it comes down to basics," Jennings said. "Do you understand the long-term thesis? How does it fit into

he believed in Facebook's story and said his employees wanted to work there. (He declined to name the company, but a look at his biography shows it was Zenbe, an email program.) Yet he said he considered those Facebook shares to be a "lottery ticket," and in those early days some employees panicked and sold when their lockup period expired. Those who did not were the ones who realized that they still had their salary to live on and could take a chance.

Stern said he had learned patience from the sale of Datek Online to Ameritrade in 2002. Ameritrade's